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SURVIVING THE SLIMMING SEASON
Nigella Lawson and Valerie Grove declare war on flab.
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ROY STRONG DIARIES
Starting today: mixing with the great and the good
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TODAY

CHILDREN GO FREE TO ALTON TOWERS
Special ticket offer, see page 42

TOMORROW

Partying with Antonia Fraser encounters with David Hockney
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WEDNESDAY

ARTS: Our critics' guide to the summer's essential shows



INTERFACE: Win one of ten children's word processors

THURSDAY

MUSIC: Richard Morrison's guide to the Proms



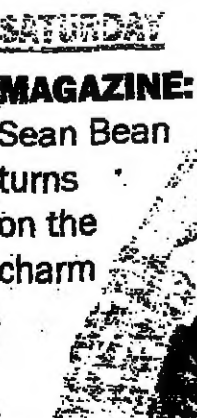
FRIDAY

How Disney brought Beauty and the Beast to London



SATURDAY

MAGAZINE: Sean Bean turns on the charm



PLUS:

WEEKEND CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY AND FULL TV GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Blair rewards the faithful

Election chief gets key post

By Philip Webster, Jill Sherman and Polly Newton

TONY BLAIR last night handed key roles in his Government to many of the most enthusiastic supporters of his crusade to change the Labour Party.

The Prime Minister followed up his Cabinet appointments on Saturday by giving Peter Mandelson, one of the originators of new Labour and the manager of his election campaign, the task of ensuring that his policies and programme are implemented throughout Whitehall. Labour sources nicknamed him The Enforcer.

Today a stream of so-called Blairites including Tessa Jowell, Stephen Byers, Alan Milburn, Henry McLeish, and Brian Wilson will become ministers of state. And it is understood that Alan Howarth, the MP who defected from the Conservatives during the last Parliament, will go straight into the Government as a junior education minister.

In another eye-catching appointment, Geoffrey Robinson, the former Jaguar chief executive and current owner of *New Statesman* magazine, was made Paymaster General at the Treasury, where he will work under his friend Gordon Brown. Sources said that his previous business experience would prove invaluable in trying to rescue the faltering private finance initiative, although he has not had a frontbench job for ten years.

Mr Blair underlined the extent to which he believes that he will still depend on Mr Mandelson by appointing the Hartlepool MP Minister without Portfolio, outside the Cabinet but working from the Cabinet Office and still a part of the inner circle.

Mr Mandelson had been hoping for a departmental post that would have allowed him to

concentrate on a specific policy and begin to move away from his image as a media manipulator. But Mr Blair insisted, and Mr Mandelson's presence so close to the centre is bound to unnerve some Cabinet members who will regard him as the leader's eyes and ears.

Other members of Mr Blair's pretorian guard who will be based at the Cabinet Office include John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister; Ann Taylor, Leader of the Commons; David Clarke, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; and Derek Foster, Public Service Minister.

With Labour planning to take the first step today towards introducing the social chapter to Britain, Mr Blair appointed Douglas Henderson Minister for Europe. Mr Henderson, a pragmatist chosen for his negotiating

skills, is seen as neither a pro-European nor sceptic and will implement the policy decided by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Blair.

Yesterday they emphasised the importance attached to European

policy by briefing Mr Henderson personally about today's meeting in Brussels. Mr Blair has upgraded Britain's presence at the talks by ruling that ministers rather than officials should lead negotiations and a party spokes-

man said that his decision to brief Mr Henderson personally showed that he was determined "to show a hands on lead from the top on Europe".

Mr Henderson said of today's talks: "We do not accept that the British people should be second-class citizens with less rights than employees on the Continent." And Mr Cook said in a statement: "The Brussels meeting opens a new chapter in Britain's relations with Europe. It marks a fresh start in Europe for Britain, working with other member states as a partner, not as an opponent. At the meeting Britain will take the first step towards signing up to the Social Chapter."

Mr Blair's first Cabinet appointments - including five women - contained no shocks, although Frank Dobson won a

surprising promotion to Health Secretary, a portfolio he held in opposition under Neil Kinnock.

Two members of the elected Shadow Cabinet, Michael Meacher and Tom Clarke, were left out of the Cabinet, but will have minister of state jobs. Andrew Smith, who was transport spokesman as an unelected member of the Shadow Cabinet, becomes Employment Minister in charge of the welfare-to-work programme under David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary. Although not a member of the Cabinet, he will attend meetings and speak on employment issues.

Labour had repeatedly pledged that the employment post would be a Cabinet one, and one senior union leader said yesterday: "Tony Blair has gone back on a key promise on the first full day

of a new Labour government being in office. What a surprise." By making clear that Mr Smith would attend Cabinet, Labour sources were clearly moving to avoid charges of betrayal.

Mr Foster, as Public Services Minister, remains outside the Cabinet in spite of being promised a job within it.

Other appointments include Helen Liddell as a Treasury Minister. Ms Liddell was a close friend of the late John Smith and took over his Monklands East seat after his death. She is regarded as a tough negotiator who has adapted swiftly to the modernising cause.

Frank Field's appointment as Social Security Minister, deputising for Harriet Harman, underlines Mr Blair's determination to introduce radical welfare reforms.



John Prescott trying his new office for size. "I have this feeling that someone will wake me up and say it was all just a wonderful dream," he said

Tory Right more confident as Heseltine gives up race

By our political editor

RIGHTWING contenders for the Tory leadership claimed support last night after the departure from the race of Michael Heseltine.

Peter Lilley, the former Social Security Secretary, became the second contender, after Kenneth Clarke, to throw his hat into the ring and John Redwood confirmed that he was likely to stand.

The contest was thrown into confusion by the announcement on Saturday that Mr Heseltine, who would have been the favourite as a unity candidate, is not standing. Mr Heseltine, who had a heart attack four years ago, was being treated at the weekend for mild angina pains. He and his family decided that it was time to call it a day.

Michael Howard, William Hague and Stephen Dorrell are to join the contest this week. With Michael Portillo defeated at last Thursday's election the supporters of other rightwing candidates, Mr Lilley, Mr Howard, Mr Hague and Mr Redwood, were all claiming to be attracting MPs who would have backed Mr Heseltine.

A number of former senior Tory ministers are expected to come forward this week as backers of Mr Howard. Yesterday Virginia Bottomley indicated that she could back him.

In the first policy initiative, Mr Clarke said that if he became leader he would allow Conservative MPs a free vote on all big European issues.

Europe had to be set aside so that the party could unite around all the things on which it agreed. The former Chancellor said that Labour did not win its landslide because the Tories had not become rightwing and Eurosceptic enough. The public were rather indifferent to this internal Conservative squabble over Europe, except they thought it made us look rather a shambles," he said. "If you look back at some of the people who took part in most of the faction fighting, they got buried in a Labour landslide of which they were the principal authors."

But Mr Lilley, who declared his candidature in a Sunday newspaper, called for unity around a policy of opposition to any attempt by Labour to sign up to the single currency. And he appeared to spurn

Mr Clarke's proposal for free votes. "The idea we could all just say it's a free vote and Her Majesty's Opposition have no view on it isn't really realistic," he said.

Mr Redwood also indicated that he would try to bring the party together in opposition to any Government moves to sign up to monetary union "although from time to time" there could be free votes on Europe. "I could not take this country into a single currency. I have made that abundantly clear and I haven't changed my views on that at all," he told LWT's *Dimpleby* programme.

"But if I decide to contest the leadership of the Opposition, that is a different role. The issue is how you oppose Labour." He said he wanted to take further soundings among Tory MPs before finally declaring his hand. "It looks very encouraging. I have been very heartened by the number of colleagues who have either rung me or responded to my calls and who have said they do like the idea of my candidature going forward."

"I am very close to announcing but I need to make sure I have a good body of support and a winning team in place to fight an election."

Mr Redwood offered an olive branch to the Left by suggesting Mr Clarke - despite his assertion to the contrary - could be a senior member of his shadow team. "I think he has a lot to contribute to our party. He has a big group of fans out in the country. He has enormous style and aplomb."



This is ridiculous - we can't all be leaders

Mobutu at end of his 32-year rule

From Sam Kiley in Kinshasa

ZAIRE's rebel army was closing in on Kinshasa last night after peace talks between President Mobutu and Laurent Kabila failed. Most of the President's family were preparing to flee and the 32-year-old regime was collapsing.

Mr Mobutu, who is suffering from cancer, met the rebel leader on a South African ship at Pointe Noire, in Congo. The talks were hosted by President Mandela.

Mr Mobutu, 66, offered to step down if power was handed to a transitional government. He said elections would be held and he would not be a candidate. The offer was swiftly rejected by Mr Kabila.

Although the pair agreed to meet again, the end of Mr Mobutu's regime is now certain. His offer lost him the remains of his credibility.

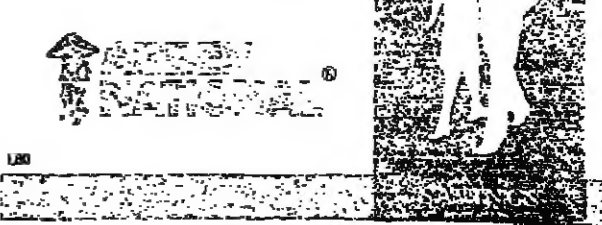
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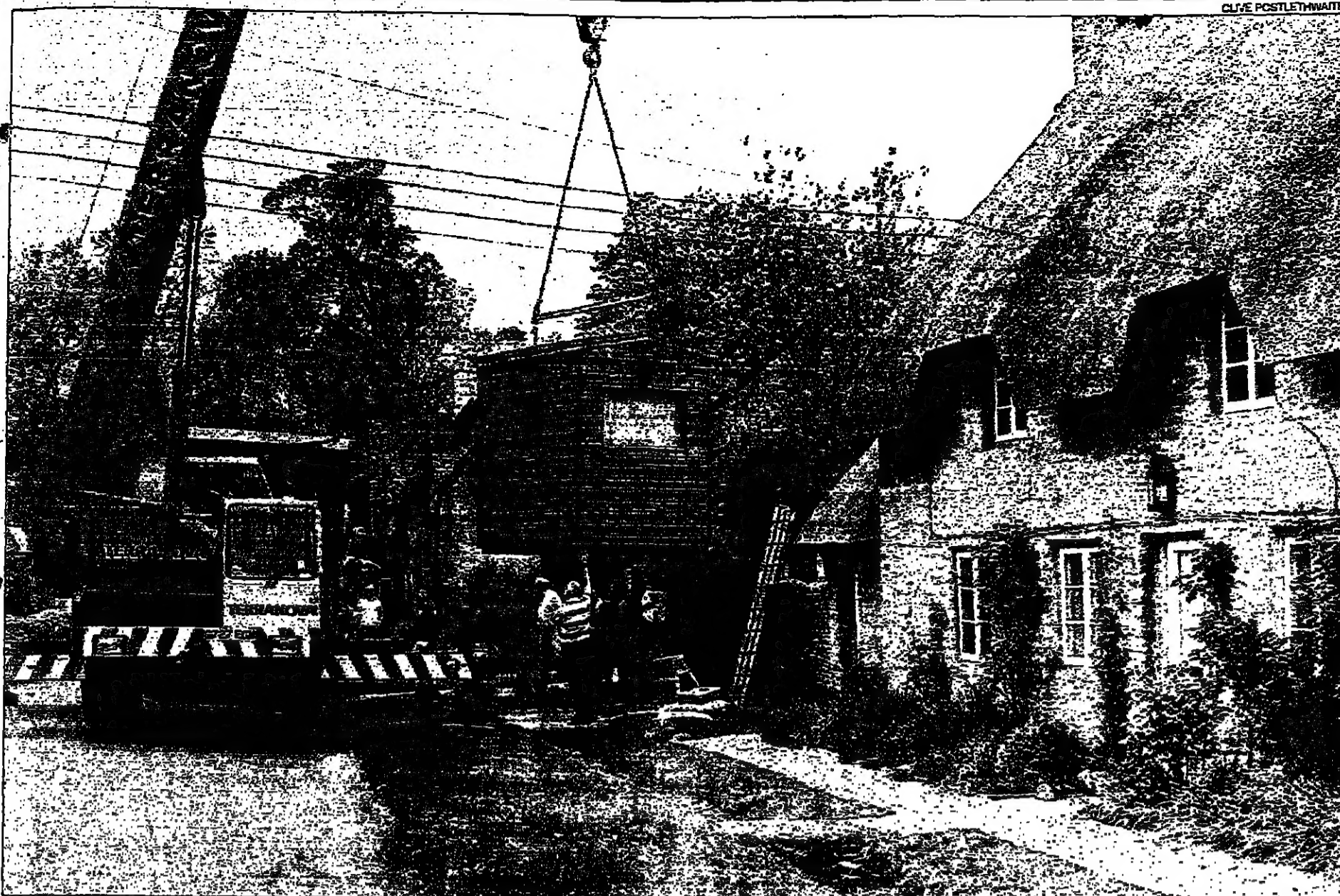
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A hut for his police guard is moved into the garden of the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, at his house in Oxfordshire. He is not going to use his official Belgravia residence

Merry-go-round as the new ministers select their ideal homes from home

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
AND RICHARD FORD

TO NEIGHBOURS it may have appeared that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, was having a new garden shed delivered to his elegant detached country home in Oxfordshire.

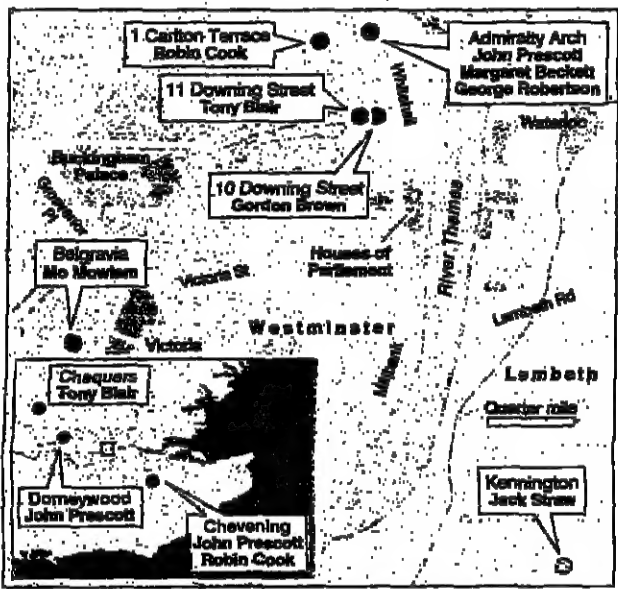
The wooden hut, for which the Straw family will have to sacrifice their cabbage patch, will however be used by the police who will watch over him when he spends weekends at home with his wife, Alice, a senior civil servant, and their two teenage children.

Mr Straw has said he will not move from his home in Kennington, south London, to the official residence in Belgravia traditionally used by the Home Secretary. He and his wife have told friends they wish to remain in the south London house because they want their children to have as normal a life as possible.

The Belgravia townhouse is to become the London home of Mr Mowlem, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and her husband, Jon Norton, a City banker. She has been advised to leave her south London home on security grounds.

Ms Mowlem will also have the use of an apartment at Stormont House, near her office in Stormont Castle in Belfast, and Hillsborough Castle in Co Down. The castle was the residence of the governor of Northern Ireland.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, is to move into 1 Carlton House Terrace, a Georgian residence leased from the Crown Estate Commissioners, which is the traditional London home of holders of his post. But Mr Cook will have to share Chevening, the



Chevening, left, will be shared by Robin Cook and John Prescott. Gordon Brown will share Dorneywood

country house retreat for Foreign Secretaries, with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

The 17th-century house, built by Inigo Jones, has 115 rooms and is set in 3,500 acres on the North Downs, near Sevenoaks, Kent. It is a sumptuous country residence which Mr Cook, a keen horse rider, and his wife, Margaret, a hospital consultant, will enjoy.

The house is also used for pre-Budget meetings of Treasury ministers and officials.

nation by Lord Courtauld-Thomson in 1943. Mr Brown suggested it would be better for the house to be opened to the public or used for charity events.

His predecessor, Kenneth Clarke, used the house regularly and often popped into the local pub before Sunday lunch. Norman Lamont and his wife loved the house so much that John Major was prepared to offer it to Mr Lamont as compensation for wishing to move him from the Treasury to the Department of the Environment. It is probably the house with the best equipped games rooms and has a barn converted for billiards, table-tennis and squash.

Mr Prescott is also to have one of a number of flats in Admiralty Arch. His neighbours will include Margaret Bockett, the President of the Board of Trade, and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary. They will have to make their own domestic arrangements and will have to employ their own cleaners and other help.

Michael Portillo, the former Defence Secretary, found the noise particularly disturbing when he lived in the Admiralty with its early morning alarm - the military bands which meet to rehearse on Horseguards Parade.

Mr Major was temporarily moved to Admiralty Arch in 1992 when building work was going on in No 10. He was astonished by the grandeur, spaciousness and elegance of the apartments compared with the cramped flat at Downing Street. Sir Leon Brittan lived there while he was Home Secretary, and his wife Diana organised aerobic sessions for friends there.

Good neighbour Brown keeps up with the Blairs

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

LIFE in Downing Street could set new levels in neighbourliness, as the Blairs plan to live above Gordon Brown's office at No 11.

Mr Brown - who set aside his leadership ambitions in favour of Mr Blair three years ago - will be living at No 10 after all. The upstairs flat is too small for the Blairs.

Mr Blair will still work from No 10, and the Chancellor from No 11. Neither will have to leave work by the front door and walk home next door, as there is an interconnecting door.

Mr Brown will keep the use of No 11's ground-floor study, and the magnificent dining room to entertain world finance ministers and bankers, and the first-floor state drawing room for receptions. He is also understood to be anxious to have access to the kitchen in the private flat.

It is not yet known when the Blairs intend to move into the grand and spacious living area. Theresa Lawson, who lived there with a young family when her husband Nigel was Chancellor, recalled one of its main advantages of

bringing up her two children, Tom and Emily. "The rooms are very well sound-proofed so the children can make a great deal of noise without disturbing anyone," she said. "Tom used to practise his trumpet in there."

She also disclosed the nightmare of walk-in wardrobes on the second floor: "You could enter them from a lift that connected the flat with the lower floors."

"People would come up in the lift, walk into the wardrobe by mistake and were then able to walk around the entire floor without anyone knowing they were there. Initially I had one or two rather unnerving experiences when I found myself confronted in my bedroom by somebody who wasn't a family member."

Norman Lamont and his wife, Rosemary, also adored the house and entertained frequently. The Blair family will be able to escape to their new country house at Chequers. Soccer nets will probably be among the first additions to this Tudor mansion that was bequeathed to the nation by Lord Lee of Fareham in 1921.

We keep Elgin Marbles, Smith tells Greece

By ANDREW PIERCE

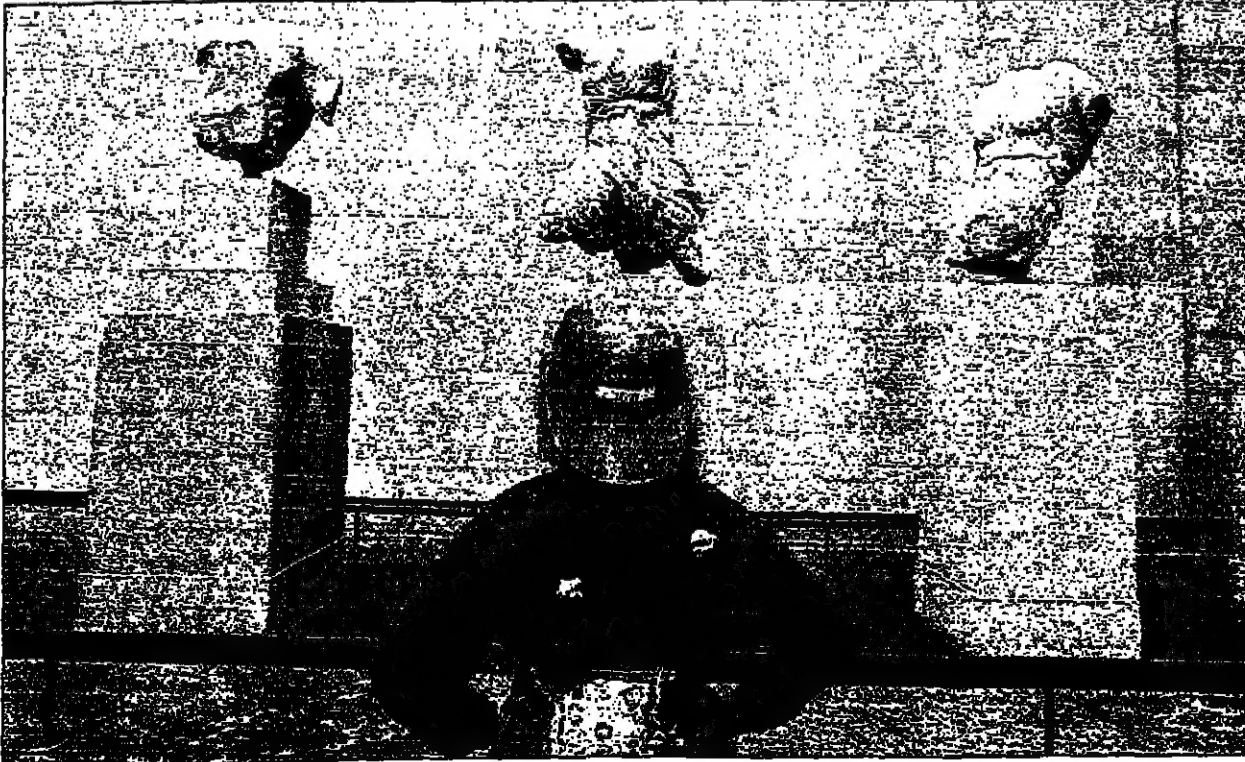
THE Elgin Marbles, the subject of one of the world's longest-running diplomatic disputes, will not be returned to Greece by the new Labour Government, it was announced yesterday.

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, in the first definitive policy statement of the new administration, confirmed that the 2,340-year-old marbles, which were prised from the Parthenon by Lord Elgin in 1803, will remain at the British Museum.

The decision, which will cause the first upset in relations between the new government and one of its European Union partners, could also put Mr Blair on collision course with Labour MEPs. More than 40 signed a petition last year calling on Britain to give the marbles back to Greece.

But the announcement thrilled the 11th Lord Elgin, the great-great-grandson of the seventh earl, who bought the marbles from the local Ottoman administrator. Lord Elgin said last night: "I am delighted by this news. The marbles were sold to my forebear in perpetuity to the British people. That was the original terms. It is right they should be honoured."

The Greek authorities have



The new Government's first policy decision was that the Elgin Marbles were to remain in the British Museum

allowed the sculptures left at the Parthenon to crumble into ruins. Were it not for the action of my forebear there would be very little left.

"There is no logical reason for them to return. The Greeks rely on emotion." The Greeks

opened up their latest public relations offensive, to try to secure their return, within hours of Mr Blair's election.

The socialist Government had hoped for a more sympathetic response after the defeat of the Tories who had always

opposed their return. But Mr Smith was having none of it yesterday.

The Heritage Secretary, speaking on BBC's *On the Record*, said: "They are an integral part of the British Museum's collections. They

are wonderfully displayed in the British Museum."

Labour had examined the issue over the past five years. "We decided it was not a feasible or sensible option. We won't do it," Mr Smith said. Millions of visitors from all

over the world see the marbles each year.

Mr Smith added: "If you start embarking on questioning where particular works are located around the world then you get into all sorts of difficult areas of discussion. You are going to have swaps of works of art taking place throughout the world, disrupting everything, and it doesn't make sense."

The policy decision by the Blair Government is in stark contrast to the one adopted by Neil Kinnock, who was ridiculed when he chose his first policy declaration as Labour leader in 1985 to return them to Athens.

Mr Kinnock said then that without the frieze of stone sculptures the Parthenon was "like a smile missing a tooth". Mark Fisher, then Labour's spokesman on the arts, was last year reprimanded by Mr Blair for suggesting that talks could be opened on the marbles, which inspired Keats and Hardy, with the Greeks who regard the 1803 transaction as an act of theft.

The Greek Government would restore them to the Parthenon, a temple that is of unique significance to the Greek culture. The marbles are the best surviving example of the work by Phidias.



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Tony Blair
Prime Minister
Aged 43. Will be 44 tomorrow

The original moderniser who ruthlessly transformed his party into new Labour. Has achieved highest political office just 14 years after entering the Commons as MP for Sedgefield. Married to high-flying lawyer Cherie Booth. Three children aged 13, 11 and nine.



John Prescott
Deputy Prime Minister, in charge of environment, transport and the regions. Aged 58

The acceptable face of old Labour at the Cabinet table. Terrible syntax belies true brain power. A real grafter. MP for Hull East, married to glamorous wife, Pauline.



Gordon Brown
Chancellor of the Exchequer, 46

Stood aside to let Blair run for Labour leadership after John Smith's death. Key moderniser. Election pledge to be "Iron Chancellor". In response voters that new Labour would not return to "tax and spend". Unmarried. MP for Dunfermline East.



Robin Cook
Foreign Secretary, 51

Hugely intelligent, sharp-tongued perfectionist. Old Labourite who reluctantly accepted modernisation. Relatively Eurosceptic. Not a Gordon Brown fan. Keen rider and racegoer. MP for Livingston, married with two sons.



Margaret Beckett
President of the Board of Trade, 54

Tough, competent, intractable. Formerly hard-left. Deflected in parallel races for Labour leadership and deputy leadership after John Smith's death. Married to Leo. MP for Derby South.



Jack Straw
Home Secretary, 51

On the Right of the party. Accused by detractors of stealing Tory clothes. Strong vocal instincts on legal and language matters. Suggesting national curriculum for young children. Married with two children. MP for Blackburn.



David Blunkett
Education and Employment Secretary, 50

Harvard-trained high-achieving Sheffield councillor. Formerly engaged in modestly anti-advocates action. Discovered with three sons. MP for Sheffield Hallam.



Donald Dewar
Scottish Secretary, 50

Popular, quick-thinking Scot, used to be in charge of Labour's Scottish campaign. Former chief who shaped party's Scottish policy. Never married. After wife left him for Lord Irvine, the new Lord Chancellor. MP for Glasgow Anniesland.



Jack Cunningham
Health Secretary, 53

That rare bird, a Labour MP with industrial experience. He was Junior Energy Minister 1976-81. Sale of his company, which could be the job after Gordon Hogg and SSE. Married with three children. MP for Croydon.



Lord Irvine
Lord Chancellor, 55

As legal partner in the young pop lawyer Tony Blair, "Derry" Irvine was the man who introduced the future Prime Minister to Cherie Booth. Remains extremely close to the Blair. Married to the wife of the new Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar.

Polly Newton and James Landale on the new cabinet

Blair in power:

Election guru rewarded with pivotal policy role

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Mandelson, key architect of the new Labour project, walked off with the most senior job of the middle-ranking appointments announced by Tony Blair yesterday.

Mr Mandelson has earned his just reward — a pivotal role as a senior minister developing and co-ordinating policy across Whitehall. He will not only ensure that the right hand knows what the left is doing but will be responsible for policy presentation to both the public and the party.

As Minister without Portfolio, with the rank of minister of state, he will also be allowed to sit in on Cabinet committees and assume a large part of the role that was adopted by Michael Heseltine when he was Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Mandelson, 43, will not

WHAT MINISTERS WILL EARN

- Tony Blair is entitled to receive £100,000 as Prime Minister, on top of his £43,860 MP's salary, a total of £143,860. But he has indicated he will not claim all of it.
- Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, will be paid £140,665.
- Lord Richard, the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Lords, will be paid £79,522.
- All other Cabinet members will receive £60,000 on top of their salaries as MPs, a total of £103,860.

have Cabinet status but he will have one of the most powerful roles in government with much more influence over the Prime Minister than most of the Cabinet.

Some Labour MPs have been suspicious and envious of the access enjoyed by the MP for Hartlepool to the Labour leader over the past two years but he has won respect for the way he helped to create the image of new Labour. Mr Mandelson planned every day of the six-week election campaign and refused to be

knocked off course — even down to the final photograph of Mr Blair and his family entering No 10.

Mr Mandelson's new desk will be in the Cabinet Office, separated by only a door from Number 10. His main job will be developing and co-ordinating policy across departments and ensuring that the government machine runs smoothly. He will also attend daily meetings with the chief whip and government business managers and with the press operation. Yesterday, speak-

ing before his post was confirmed, he said: "I am there to assist in the strategic implementation of our policies and to make sure that our programme is kept on track and moving forward and to ensure that these policies are effectively presented to public and to the party."

Mr Mandelson's appointment is bound to provoke tension between Mr Mandelson and cabinet ministers, who will fear that he may intervene in the running of their departments.

John Prescott, in particular, may be nervous of Mr Mandelson's influence and wary of any encroachment into what he regards as deputy prime minister territory. Labour sources point out, however, that Mr Prescott will have such a big job supervising his own super-ministry of transport and environment that he will not have the time to co-ordinate policy.



Andrew Smith, 46, Minister of State, Department for Education and Employment: low-profile, unexciting Blairite. Was formerly the Shadow Transport Secretary, who was reportedly irritated by the media interest surrounding his deputy in Opposition, Glenda Jackson, the actress. He endured five minutes of fame during the general election campaign when it emerged that Labour might privatise Britain's air traffic control system. Mr Smith was shown emphatically telling last year's Labour Party conference that it would never happen. Married with one son, he has been the MP for Oxford East since 1987.



Helen Liddell, 46, Minister of State at the Treasury: a close friend of the late John Smith, the former Labour leader who died in May 1994, she took over his Monklands East seat in a by-election later that year. Tough, bright and well-liked at Westminster. A former Scottish Secretary of the Labour Party between 1977 and 1988, she has oldish Labour roots, but has rapidly converted to the modernising cause. Between 1993 and 1994 she gained business experience as chief executive of the Business Venture Programme. Became the Labour Party's spokeswoman on Scotland in 1995, dealing with education and social work.



Geoffrey Robinson, 58, Paymaster General: millionaire MP for Coventry North West since 1976, who resigned as Labour's front-bench trade and industry spokesman in 1986 to start a business, TransTec. The company is now estimated to be worth £100 million. He is close to the Blair, who have spent summer holidays at his mansion in Tuscany. He also owns the Grade II-listed, 20-bedroom Marsh Court in Hampshire and art eight-bedroom house in Surrey. He won his seat at a by-election after a two-year spell as chief executive of Jaguar Cars. Last year he took over the ailing *New Statesman & Society*.



Doug Henderson, 48, Minister for Europe: considered hard-working and expected to negotiate toughly in Britain's interests. A pragmatist, he will implement policies rather than set his own agenda. Formerly spokesman on trade and industry, the environment and the Citizen's Charter, he began his working life as an apprentice at Rolls Royce in Glasgow. He became a BR clerk and then a union representative before becoming actively involved in politics. A keen marathoner, he lost one of his Westminster jogging partners, the former Olympic gold medalist Sebastian Coe, in the Tories' election rout.

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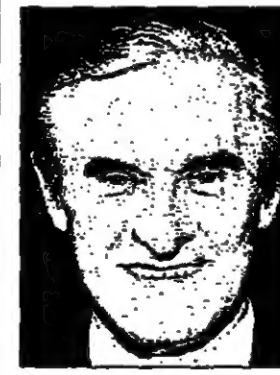
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Derek Foster, 59, Minister of State at the Office of Public Service: most recently the Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (from 1995 to 1997) after long service as Opposition Chief Whip, beginning in 1985. Has been the MP for Bishop Auckland since 1979. Married his wife Florence in 1972, they have three sons and one daughter. Was formerly a councillor in Tyneside. Is a uniformed member of the Salvation Army, and an enthusiastic singer. Had expected to be rewarded with a Cabinet post after he agreed to stand aside for Donald Dewar to take the Chief Whip's job in 1995. Amiable but grey.



Tessa Jowell, 49: well-liked, arch-moderniser who could become the acceptable face of the Health Department under Frank Dobson. Close to Blair. Began career as a childcare officer for Lambeth council, then a hospital social worker. Assistant director of mental health charity Mind 1974-86, chairman of the social services committee of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities 1978-86. Camden councillor 1971-86. Divorced in 1975, married second husband in 1979. Has two children and three stepchildren.



Brian Wilson, 48: Scottish Blairite, recently headed Labour's much-mocked but secretly admired "rapid rebuttal unit" to counter Tory claims about party policy. Has been opposition spokesman on Scotland, the Citizen's Charter and transport. A journalist by trade, he was founding editor and publisher of the West Highland Free Press newspaper 25 years ago. MP for Cunningham North since 1987. Named *Parliamentarian of the Year* by *The Spectator* magazine in 1990. Tirelessly faxes newspapers with instant reactions. Ticked off by Madam Speaker for reading a question from his pager. Married with two children.



Henry McLeish, 48: Blairite, Scottish-born former planning officer who once worked part-time as a university lecturer. A research officer at Edinburgh's social work department from 1974-75 then became involved in planning and employment. Between 1984 and 1987, he worked as a part-time consultant on employment matters. Solid local government experience, including leadership of Life Regional Council and chairmanship of its education committee. Elected as MP for Fife Central in 1987. He has spoken on Scotland, employment, transport and health for Labour in opposition.



John Reid, 49: the son of a postman and a factory worker, he is a former union activist whose Blairite veneer covers an old Labour core. He was an adviser to Neil Kinnock, the then Labour leader, from 1983-85 and went on to become Scottish organiser of 'Trade Unions for a Labour Victory' between 1985 and 1987. Married with two sons, he entered the Commons as MP for Motherwell North in 1987. Deputy shadow spokesman on children's issues, 1989-90. Former member of the Commons Public Accounts Committee and chairman of Labour's Parliamentary industry committee. A keen football fan.



Stephen Byers, 44: bright, hard-working, enthusiastic Blairite and ally of Peter Mandelson. Arch moderniser, tends to oversell the new Labour project. Famous for telling journalists at the Seafood restaurant in Blackpool that Labour was threatening to break the link with unions. An MP since 1992, was singled out as a high-flyer in 1994 when appointed to the Whips office. Became shadow education and employment minister in 1996, concentrating on trade unions — keeping the Thatcher laws and ditching previous Labour policy. Education and legal expert — former senior lecturer in law at Newcastle Polytechnic.



Ian McCartney, 46: old Labour, but moderately so. Former Transport and General Workers Union branch secretary and shop steward. Obsessive supporter of Wigan Rugby League club. MP for Macclesfield since 1987. Labour spokesman on employment since 1994. Renowned at Westminster as the shortest MP in the Commons, at around 5ft 3in. His crusade against unlicensed doormen at clubs and pubs left him in hospital last year after a beating by some of those who disliked his views. Known in Westminster as "Big Mac". Has one son and two daughters from his first marriage. Married second wife Ann in 1988.



Alan Milburn, 59: first elected, for Darlington, in 1992. An advocate of regional government, he has written books about regeneration of the north of England. He loves statistics, particularly those which appear to show Tory failings, and regularly produces for the press detailed tables of hospital bed closures and spending on health service administration. Educated in Newcastle before studying history at Lancaster University. Former council and union official. Former member of the powerful Public Accounts Committee. A popular figure around Westminster. Has one son with partner Ruth. A classic new-style moderniser.



George Robertson
Defence Secretary.
Aged 51

Shadow Scottish Secretary (1993 to 1997), he had expected the job in cabinet but was moved sideways to MoD. MP for Hamilton South since 1978. Son of a policeman. Married Sandra in 1970, two sons, one daughter.

Frank Dobson
Health Secretary. 57

Shadow Minister for Environment (1994 to 1997). MP for Holborn and St Pancras since 1979. Married Janet in 1967, has one daughter and two sons. A former leader of Camden council in London. Old Labour but almost able to sing to the new tune.

Ann Taylor
President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons. 49

MP for Bolton West from 1974 to 1983 and then Dewsbury since 1987. Shadow Leader of the House (1993 to 1997). Was a member of last Labour Government. Married with one son and one daughter.

Harriet Harman
Social Security Secretary. 46

Shadow Employment Secretary (1994 to 1997). Married in 1982 to Jack Dronow, senior official at the Transport and General Workers Union; has two sons and one daughter.

Marjorie Mowlam
Northern Ireland Secretary. 47

Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary (1994 to 1997). Previously a spokesman on National Heritage matters, the citizen's charter, women's Affairs and the City. MP for Redcar since 1987. Married but no children.

Ron Davies
Welsh Secretary. 50

Shadow Welsh Secretary (1992 to 1997). MP for Caerphilly since 1983. Married Christina in 1981; has one daughter. Very much Old Labour but brought into line by the Blairites. Prompted row last year when he suggested abolition of monarchy.

Clare Short
International Development Secretary. 51

Overseas Development spokesman (1994 to 1997). MP for Birmingham Ladywood since 1983. Widowed. Reunited this year with son whom she gave up for adoption 30 years ago.

Lord Richard
Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Lords. 64

Labour leader in the Lords since 1992. Trained as a barrister and is a QC. MP for Barons Court in West London from 1964 to 1974. Raised to peerage in 1990. Experienced and respected in the Lords.

David Blunkett
Education Secretary. 45

Shadow Education Secretary (1992 to 1997). MP for Colne Valley from 1976 to 1994, and then South Shields since 1995. Married Christine in 1983. Has one daughter. Respected in the Commons.

Gavin Strang
Minister of Agriculture. 48

Shadow Agriculture Minister (1994 to 1997). MP for Edinburgh South since 1978. Married in 1973. Has one son.

Chris Smith
National Heritage Secretary. 45

Shadow National Heritage Secretary (1994 to 1997). Appointment in 1997 after the victory over the Tories. MP for Islington South and Finsbury since 1983. One of the few openly gay MPs.

Nick Brown
Chief Whip. 48

Former official. Former deputy chief whip for Labour. Came into Gordon Brown's Ministry of Agriculture in 1995. Has one son.

how the team lines up

Blunkett has the practical problems of office taped

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

WHITEHALL has been preparing for almost a year for the arrival of David Blunkett, the first blind Cabinet minister. But Mr Blunkett has already discovered one problem: his braille briefing papers are too large to fit into the "red box" that ministers take home with them at night.

Officials have wrestled with the problem of distilling 100 or more pages of briefing every day. Policy papers are to be limited to four pages and will have a short summary so that the Education and Employment Secretary can assess whether he needs a full briefing.

At Mr Blunkett's request, the department will use mainly taped submissions. A "reading unit" has been created to produce the audio cassettes.

Mr Blunkett will rely on his private office and political adviser to filter material. A small team centred on his researcher, Conor Ryan, has carried out the process in Opposition. The department is examining how big the team needs to be in government.

Mr Blunkett has an outstanding memory and has told the department that he can cope with 40 pages a day on audio tape, with a back-up on braille for statistics and particularly important texts.

Mr Blunkett has asked those intending to send submissions on future policy to do so in print, rather than in braille or on tape, so that the department can operate in the normal way. "In order to allow us to deal with matters in an orderly fashion, I would like people to forget that I cannot see and continue to deal with the department in the normal way," he said.

"I am requesting that they take a leaf out of my own book, which is to approach this job as would any other incoming

Secretary of State and allow the department to work with me in overcoming any practical problems."

The 49-year-old MP for Sheffield Brightside has been blind since birth. His optic nerves failed to develop, and he can barely distinguish between bright light and darkness.

His father died in an industrial accident when he was 12 and he had an unhappy period at a boarding school for the blind. He spent six years at evening classes gaining the A levels needed for a place at Sheffield University. Fellow students of politics took turns reading texts onto cassettes.

As leader of Sheffield City Council, he relied on a combination of braille and tapes to keep up with policy papers. After his election to Parliament in 1987, the Palace of Westminster had to relax its rules on animals to accommodate his guide dog.

Mr Blunkett held his first education briefing within hours of his appointment on Friday. He promised separate White Papers on education and employment soon with the prospect of one overarching bill in the first session of Parliament.

The task of writing the core of the education White Paper will fall to Professor Michael Barber, who has been appointed Special Adviser on Standards and Effectiveness in Schools. Professor Barber will be seconded from his post of Dean of New Initiative at the Institute of Education in London.

A focus group for teachers will be set up, to keep the department informed of their views. Teachers will be faced with a barrage of changes, including compulsory retraining in teaching the basics of literacy.

Field called up for his radical thinking

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY Blair's decision to appoint Frank Field as number two at social security signals the Prime Minister's determination to implement sweeping reforms of the welfare state.

Mr Field will deputise for Harriet Harman, who has kept her shadow cabinet portfolio, but Mr Blair will be relying on the maverick MP for Birkenhead to "think the unthinkable" which is likely to include a pensions shake-up. Mr Blair had hoped that his shadow team would have come up with more radical welfare changes but Chris Smith ducked the issue and Harriet Harman's strength is in presentation, rather than detail.

Mr Field is known for his radical thinking — often more right wing than Peter Lilley's — and perhaps because of that he has been notably absent from Labour's front bench since 1984. Mr Blair made the first formal overtures to him last July, appointing him as a social security adviser on the

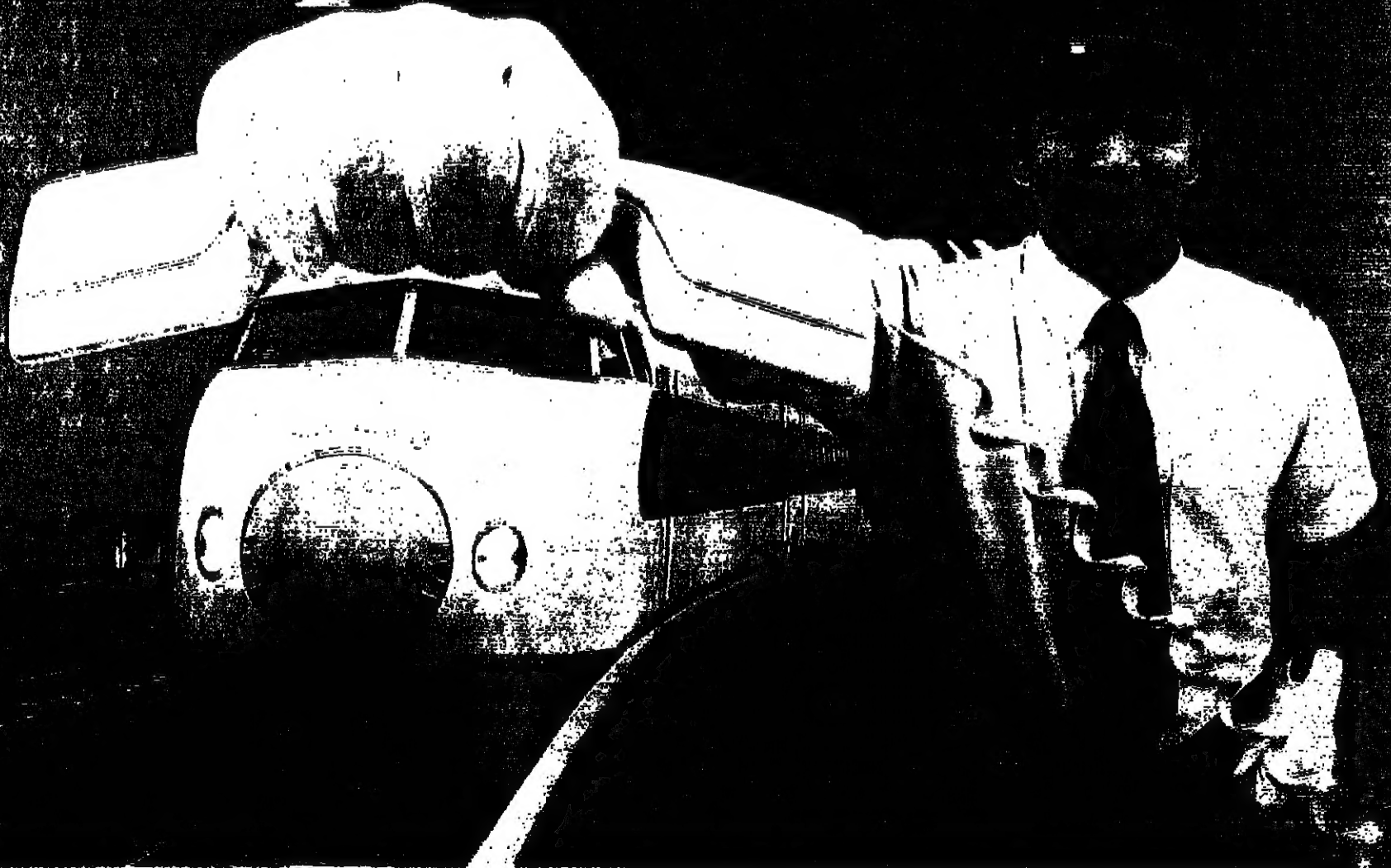
welfare to work programme, rather than giving him frontbench job.

A social policy expert who is prepared to speak his mind, Mr Field has chaired the Commons social security select committee for the past six years and had studied almost every aspect of the £90 billion welfare programme.

Last autumn he unveiled his plans for a "stakeholders' welfare" which included big increases in National Insurance contributions to fund the NHS, a new care pension to finance long-term care for the elderly, and insurance against unemployment.

Labour sources insisted that Mr Field's blueprint would not be implemented but his ideas would be seriously studied. In the shorter term he and Ms Harman will implement plans to help single mothers into work and get the poorest pensioners to take up their benefit entitlement. Other medium-term areas could include merging benefits and integrating tax and benefits.

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Social stars shine again in Mountbatten movies

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

A UNIQUE collection of home movies of the Mountbatten family, depicting Britain's upper class at play between the wars, has been discovered after nearly 60 years of neglect. The collection of around 30 films captures intimate family moments shared by Lord Mountbatten of Burma and his wife Edwina, her sister Mary and Mary's husband Captain Alec "Bobbie" Cunningham-Reid, and many famous friends. The list of friends featured in the hol-

day films reads like a Who's Who of the inter-war years, including the actors Douglas Fairbanks, Vivienne Leigh and Charlie Chaplin and the politicians Neville Chamberlain and Rab Butler. Also seen are Oswald Mosley, sunning himself on a deckchair in the South of France, and a very young Barbara Cartland.

The real star of the films, however, is Edwina Mountbatten. A strong and beautiful woman, she becomes a complete coquette in front of the camera. In one sequence she is filmed putting on her make-up and plucking her eyebrows in front of a mirror, giving knowing glances towards the camera.

Edwina, who became a millionaire as a very young woman when her grandfather died, went on to forge a distinguished career as a social welfare worker in service with the Order of St John. The home movies are a glimpse into the impish side of her character, rarely seen in public.

The films were shot with a 16mm camera by Cunningham-Reid, an MP who went



Moving memories: Edwina Mountbatten plucks her eyebrows on film. The camera also captured impromptu performances from Lady Mosley and Vivienne Leigh



Earl Mountbatten

on to become chairman of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Not only did he know the rich and famous, he also travelled to locations rarely captured on film in the first half of the century. He filmed a Jewish ghetto and street scenes in Moscow in the 1930s.

The films were found by Cunningham-Reid's widow

and passed on to his granddaughter, Fiona, a documentary film-maker living in Australia.

Ms Cunningham-Reid said she did not think that the films had been shown in their entirety for nearly 60 years. None has been shown in public. She had spent a week watching them in growing excitement. "My grandfather

fancied himself as a film-maker. He used to edit all his home movies and had a cinema at home where he would bore to death anyone who visited the house by making them watch the films," she said.

Ms Cunningham-Reid has deposited the films with the archive company Film Images and is now, using the

footage, is planning to make a documentary film about her grandparents' lives.

Linda Kaye of the National Film and Television Archives said that home movies featuring well-known public figures filled in many of the gaps in the history books.

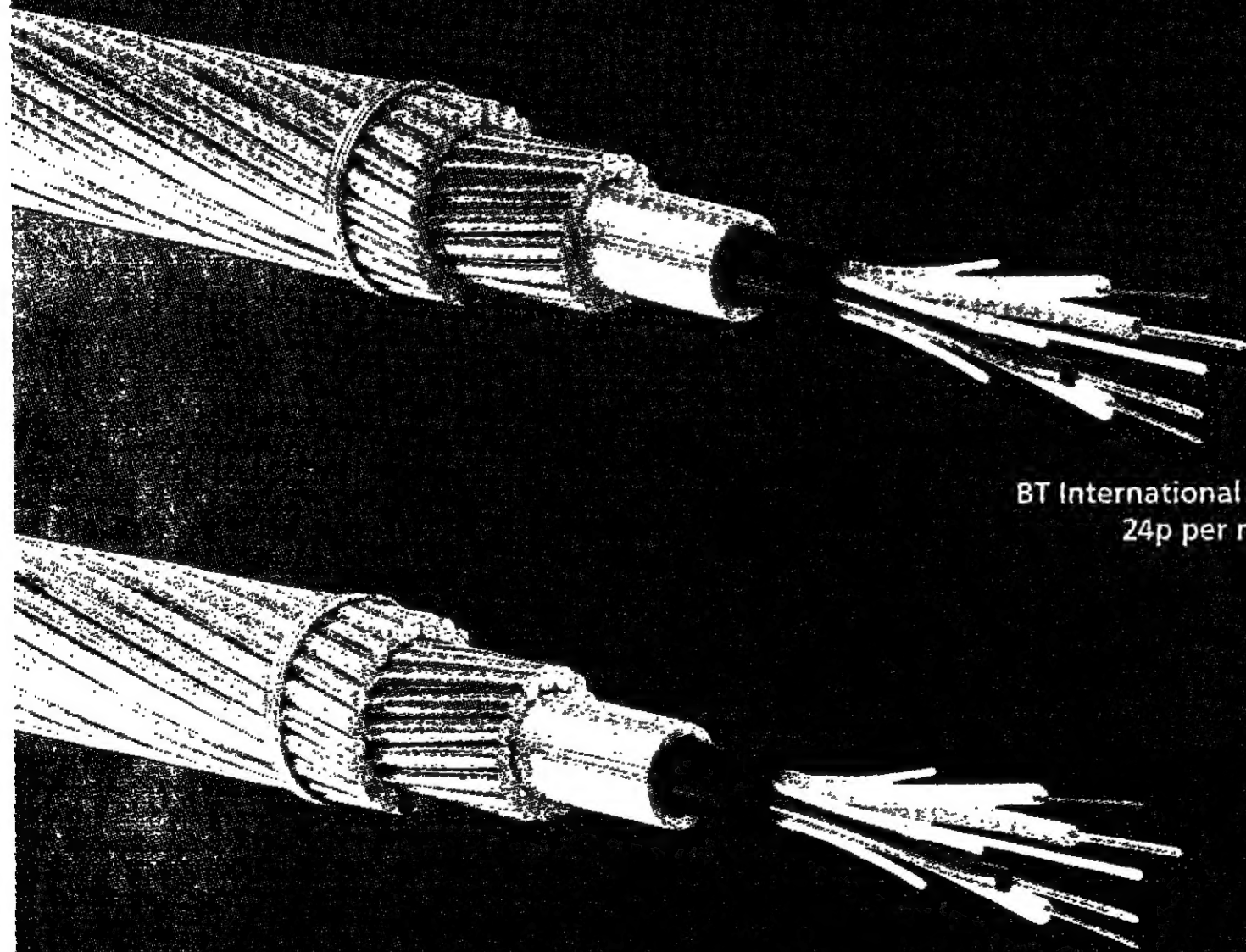
"Films such as these provide a window on the social life and manners of the time.

Even if you have written documentation of somebody's life or their holidays, you do not get a full picture of what they were really like," she said.

"With moving images you get a different picture — their body language, their demeanour and their expressions tell you something about the kind of person they

were." Home cine cameras and projectors did not become widely available until the 1920s, when both Pathe and Kodak produced models. These were very expensive — the early Kodak models cost \$335 — and tended to be playthings only of the rich. Home movie cameras did not become a mass-market product until the 1950s and 1960s.

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Ringo birthplace could be listed

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE abandoned terrace house looks more likely to be listed than listed. Number 9 Madryn Street, in Toxteth, Liverpool, has corrugated iron nailed over its single downstairs front window, a leaky roof, smashed lavatory and crumbling ceilings.

However, it could become the first birthplace of a living person to be protected as a listed building of historical interest. That person was Richard Starkey, born in 1940, better known as Ringo Starr, drummer with The Beatles.

The house was sold at auction for £13,200 in March. The new owner, Cliff Cooper, who bought it unseen, says: "It's in a terrible state, but the aim is to get it listed." Martin Cherry, English Heritage's head of listing, said yesterday:

"The impact of The Beatles on late 20th century British culture is so huge, we would look at it very seriously indeed. Since it raises a particular issue, to commemorate people who are still alive, we would probably take it to one of our internal committees."

Mr Cooper, managing director of World of Music shops, wants to rent out the house where the child Ringo sheltered from air raids in a cupboard under the stairs. He plans to renovate it and place a tourist plaque on an outside wall showing its significance, but says the rent won't reflect its history.

In 1995, the National Trust bought the Liverpool house where Sir Paul McCartney grew up, and plans to open it to the public.



Street of fame: 9 Madryn Street, right



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Richer Oxford colleges urged to share wealth

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

RICH Oxford colleges are under pressure to share more of their wealth with their poorer neighbours to ensure that the university's standards are uniformly maintained.

A survey by *The Times* of income and academic performance shows that the wealthiest colleges are grouped at the top of the examination results table. In most cases, it discloses that academic success and college income at Oxford go hand in hand.

Last year's top academic performer, Merton, is believed to be the fourth richest undergraduate college, with assets and investments worth £55.6 million. The richest college, St John's, which is worth more than £90 million, came fourth in last year's Nottingham table of examination results, and the second richest, Christ Church, worth £89 million, came fifth. Both St John's and Christ Church are ten times wealthier than colleges in the lower half of the 30-college table, including Pembroke, St Edmund Hall and St Peter's. The findings will in-

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Qualifications designed to stretch the most able pupils are on the verge of extinction because of antipathy from universities and schools. Despite consistent calls for courses that challenge the brightest beyond A level, the number of those taking Special-level papers has declined to critical levels. Fewer than 1,000 students take S levels with each of two main examination boards con-

tinuing to offer them. The take-up figures will come as a blow for Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's chief qualifications adviser, who saw S levels as an answer to critics who said A levels were not demanding enough for high-flyers. Almost no universities give applicants credit for S levels because they are not equally available across different examination boards.

Pressure on the North Commission, the inquiry into Oxford's future, headed by Peter North, the University's Vice-Chancellor, for a greater redistribution of wealth.

Senior figures believe a scheme introduced 30 years ago to cream off money from the richest colleges and award it to the poorest has not gone far enough to redress academic imbalances.

John Fleming, warden of Wadham College and chairman of the Conference of Colleges, said wealthier col-

leges offered better facilities and lower accommodation charges. He believed the North Commission would be challenged to share resources more to preserve Oxford's tutorial system, in which students are taught in groups of two or three, but which some colleges struggle to maintain. "The problem is that the radical solution, to equalise everything, would remove everybody's incentive to manage well or to solicit donations," he said. Detailed estimates yesterday suggested that the annual

income of Oxford colleges amounted to more than £110 million, excluding the value of college buildings, government grant and income from conferences. Assets and investments total £1 billion; the corresponding figure for Cambridge colleges is £795 million.

The richest Oxford college, St John's, has securities of £42.3 million, farmland worth £6.5 million and shops and offices valued at £43.1 million. The total of £92.5 million yields an annual income of £5.5 million, used for staff costs, administration, maintenance and reserves.

Next richest is Christ Church, with assets valued at £89.3 million and annual income from them of £4.7 million. Then comes New College (assets £59.7 million, income £1.9 million) and Merton (assets £55.6 million, income £2.75 million). All are in the top ten for academic results.

Trinity is the wealthiest Cambridge college, according to the survey, with assets of £309.6 million, yielding £18.8 million annually.

Leading article, page 21

Manchester bids to host Eurovision competition

By AUDREY MAGEE

THE first British win in the Eurovision Song Contest for 16 years sparked another competition yesterday, for the choice of British city to host next year's event.

A feel-good song written for the Samaritans, *Love Shine a Light* by Katrina and the Waves, defeated the title-holders Ireland by 70 points, as the colours of the Union Jack flooded Saturday's audience in Dublin. Katrina Leskanich, 36, originally from Kansas, said: "It reflects the new era about to begin in Britain. We are back in the spotlight and on the move."

The win means that Britain will stage the event next year. Manchester's business chiefs were first to bid. The promotion consortium Marketing Manchester said: "This is the centre of the modern music industry." Britain last won in 1981, with Bucks Fizz singing *Making Your Mind Up*.



Making waves: Katrina Leskanich after winning the Eurovision Song Contest

Business as usual as Royal Academy staff rescue art

By ALAN HAMILTON

SWIFT action by staff and firefighters saved more than 100 paintings, including works by Reynolds, Constable and Turner, when fire broke out in the Royal Academy in central London on Saturday night.

Curators inspecting the damage at the Academy's home at Burlington House in Piccadilly yesterday found that it was much less than they had originally feared and was confined to a handful of paintings, drawings and architectural models in a first-floor gallery. Several entries for this year's summer exhibition, which opens on June 1, suffered slight damage but could probably be repaired.

A message from the Queen, the Academy's patron, to Sir Philip Dowson, its president, expressed her relief at the minimal damage, and congratulated one of the country's leading art institutions on opening for business as usual yesterday morning.

Like many other galleries, Burlington House has no sprinkler system, on the ground that water is likely to cause far more damage to paintings than a small fire. But as the flames were being doused with firefighters' hoses, staff became concerned at a

trickle of water beginning to penetrate a basement vault where a large part of the Academy's historic collection was kept.

Some staff were on duty for a lecture taking place in the building; others were quickly summoned from their homes. Helped by firefighters, who were issued with white cotton gloves as worn by art conservators, they formed a human chain and moved more than 100 paintings to safety in another vault. They saved, among other works, a series of Constable landscape studies, Turner's view of Dolbadarn Castle in North Wales and a self-portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

David Gordon, secretary of the Academy, praised staff and firefighters yesterday. "A fire is always a serious matter, but we were able to deal with it very quickly in the way we had predicted, and the fact that this morning people are coming in to see our George Grosz exhibition shows that our procedures are working," he said. "The cause of the fire is still unknown, but the first-floor Lecture Room gallery, where it broke out, is undergoing refurbishment."

Photograph, page 24

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THE TIMES MONDAY MAY 5 1997

Agent staged experience for a theatrical innocent

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

DAVID HARE, Britain's leading left-wing playwright, was once given \$2,000 by his agent to broaden his experience of life and buy the services of a woman, a new theatrical biography discloses.

Hare, whose more recent stage successes include *The Absence of War*, *Skylight* and *Amy's View*, was then in his twenties and had recently signed up with Peggy Ramsay, the legendary theatrical agent. Ramsay thought that, if he were to become a successful writer, he needed to know more about the ways of the world. "Buy yourself a girl," she advised, handing him a wallet stuffed with cash.

The offer was made in 1975 when Hare, now 49, was on his way to New York to see the American production of his play *Knuckle*, about three female teachers who give up sex in protest at society's domination by men. How he spent the money is not recorded and yesterday he refused to comment on the story.

In 1975 he had already written *Slag*, a play about



A new biography reveals that Peggy Ramsay thought David Hare needed to broaden his experience

women, though for the extreme feminist pamphlets of the time, of which one reviewer noted: "A lot of the things about how women feel are guesses."

A few years later were still noting that social desolation was one of the persistent themes of Hare's plays. Others accused him of overexpression and even misogyny. But more recently one reviewer wrote that Hare did not understand them failed to realise that he in fact revered them too much.

The story of his agent's offer is told in an authorised biography of Ramsay by Colin Chambers, literary manager of the Royal Shakespeare Company, to be published on May 15. "Peggy would have seen him as a bright young thing not knowing his way around the world," Chambers said yesterday.

"She pictured him as an innocent abroad, as well as being capable of being more manipulative. Peggy knew

that social education cost money and she was happy to provide it," Hare had "recognised" the story, Chambers added. "He didn't say what he did with the \$2,000. He just grinned."

Ramsay, who died in 1991 and who was portrayed by Vanessa Redgrave in *Prick Up Your Ears*, the film about the playwright Joe Orton, numbered among her other clients Orton, Alan Ayckbourn, John Mortimer and Kenneth Williams. According to Chambers, she actively encouraged promiscuity among her writers and wished particularly that Hare's own later womanising would filter into his plays.

At the time of the cash offer, Hare, the son of a purser with P&O, who was educated at Lancing and Cambridge, was married to Margaret Matheson, a television producer. The marriage was breaking up, said Chambers, and the couple divorced in 1980. The playwright's name was subsequently linked with a number of actresses, including Kate Nelligan, Penny Downie and Blair Brown. Five years ago he married Nicole



David Hare: "Ramsay would have seen him as a bright young thing not knowing his way around the world"

Farah, a fashion designer. The Ramsay biography was based largely on a huge collection of her personal papers, now in the British Library. She was a formidable character who shaped Britain's post-war theatrical renaissance. Letters, contracts and postcards dating from the mid-1950s make

up an extensive correspondence with her clients.

The papers also disclose that to be insulted by her was regarded as a mark of respect. "She didn't bother to be rude to people she didn't think were worth it," Chambers said.

"People were secretly pleased. If she wasn't being

rude about people, they were nobody." Her letters reflected her directness. She told Steven Poliakoff that his play *Bambi Ramm* "wasn't properly disciplined and that it was hopelessly over-written".

Sally Brown, the British Library's curator of modern literary manuscripts, said:

"It's one of the richest collections of postwar theatre material that is ever likely to appear."

□ *Peggy: The Life of Margaret Ramsay. Play Agent* by Colin Chambers, will be published on May 15.

Arts, pages 18, 19

Study links childhood leukaemia to summer

BY NICK NUTTALL

THE likelihood of contracting leukaemia is much greater during the summer, scientists have found. They believe a seasonal virus may hold the key to why some people become victims of the disease.

Researchers at the Institute of Public Health in Cambridge found that diagnosis of acute lymphocytic leukaemia, the most common blood cancer in children, was 40 per cent more likely between May and October.

The study, published in the *British Journal of Cancer*, was based on studies of 4,292 people in Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk between 1971 and 1994.

Dr Padmanathan Badrinath, one of the researchers, said: "This is an important study because if we can identify a risk factor for the disease, we will be a step nearer to finding ways of preventing it."

Viral infection is already known to be a factor in some other types of cancer, such as Burkitt's lymphoma and primary liver cancer. The researchers said there could be an incubation period of up to two years if a virus were involved in lymphocytic leukaemia.

Arsonists kill two children

Murder inquiries into the deaths of two children in arson attacks have begun. Joe McCafferty, 7, died when petrol was poured into a house and lit in Huddersfield. Emily Salvani, 8, died in an attack in Reading.

War-time promise

Peter Hassall has fulfilled a war-time promise by burying his friend in a war graves cemetery in Jersey. Maurice Gould died in a German prison 55 years ago after they were caught trying to escape.

Fire walkout

Essex firemen staged a sixth walkout in their protest over £1.5 million budget cuts. The action took place despite rising hopes that the county council may be able to find more cash from reserves.

Children appeal

The 1996 BBC Children in Need appeal has so far raised £17.5 million, the highest sum for the years. About 3,000 of the £500 organisations which made requests will receive grants.

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TWA blast 'was not caused by terrorism'

By Bronwen Maddox

WHAT the FBI described as "catastrophic mechanical failure" was the most likely cause of the TWA Flight 800 disaster last July in which all 230 passengers and crew on board were killed.

According to Louis Freeh, the bureau's director, "the evidence is certainly not moving in the direction of a terrorist attack. It is in fact moving in the other direction."

The Paris-bound Boeing 747 exploded shortly after taking off from Kennedy Airport, New York, on July 17. Despite huge efforts to retrieve its shattered remains from the waters off Long Island, the cause of the blast remained a mystery.

The bureau and the National Transportation Safety Board hope to present their formal conclusions by mid to late summer. Mr Freeh said. His comments have been interpreted as the FBI's attempt to prepare the public for the likely conclusion that the explosion was not caused by criminal action, and that there will not be a cathartic trial to provide a focus for public anger.

Officials heading the investigation, which has cost \$28 million (£17 million), are now worried that the public will not accept their findings. Peter Goetz, spokesman for the safety board, said last week: "It doesn't do any good to conduct the most extensive investigation in aviation history and not have the public believe it."

Theories that the plane was hit by a missile have been encouraged by statements from more than a hundred witnesses who say they saw flashes of light heading for the plane moments before it exploded.

Drugs and peso's slide mar Clinton Mexico trip

From Bronwen Maddox in Washington

DRUGS, trade and immigration are the pressing agenda as President Clinton makes his first visit to Mexico today, in a trip which has taken on new urgency as the crisis over America's southern border has worsened.

Mr Clinton has repeatedly put himself on the line by choosing to support President Zedillo of Mexico and the cause of free trade within the American continent despite fears within his own Administration that Mexican corruption, drug trafficking and violence are winning over democracy and order.

Last month Mr Clinton chose to recertify Mexico as an ally in the drugs war, although his officials were concerned that the Mexican Government lacked the power to be an effective ally. Thomas Constantine, head of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), told the Senate foreign relations committee that "there is not one single law-enforcement institution in Mexico with whom the DEA has an entirely trusting relationship".

Political analysts argue that the grip of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which has run Mexico for decades, has slipped markedly in recent months. Although Señor Zedillo has more than three years left of his term, the party may lose control of the lower house of parliament in July elections.

Against that backdrop, Mexico will press Mr Clinton to support the extension of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the ground-breaking trade pact between the US, Canada and Mexico, to include at least Chile.

Jesús Silva-Herzog, the Mexican Ambassador to America, argued vigorously in a speech in Washington on Friday that the pact had

helped the US as well as Mexico, adding that annual trade between the US and Mexico now amounted to \$140 billion (£86.5 billion).

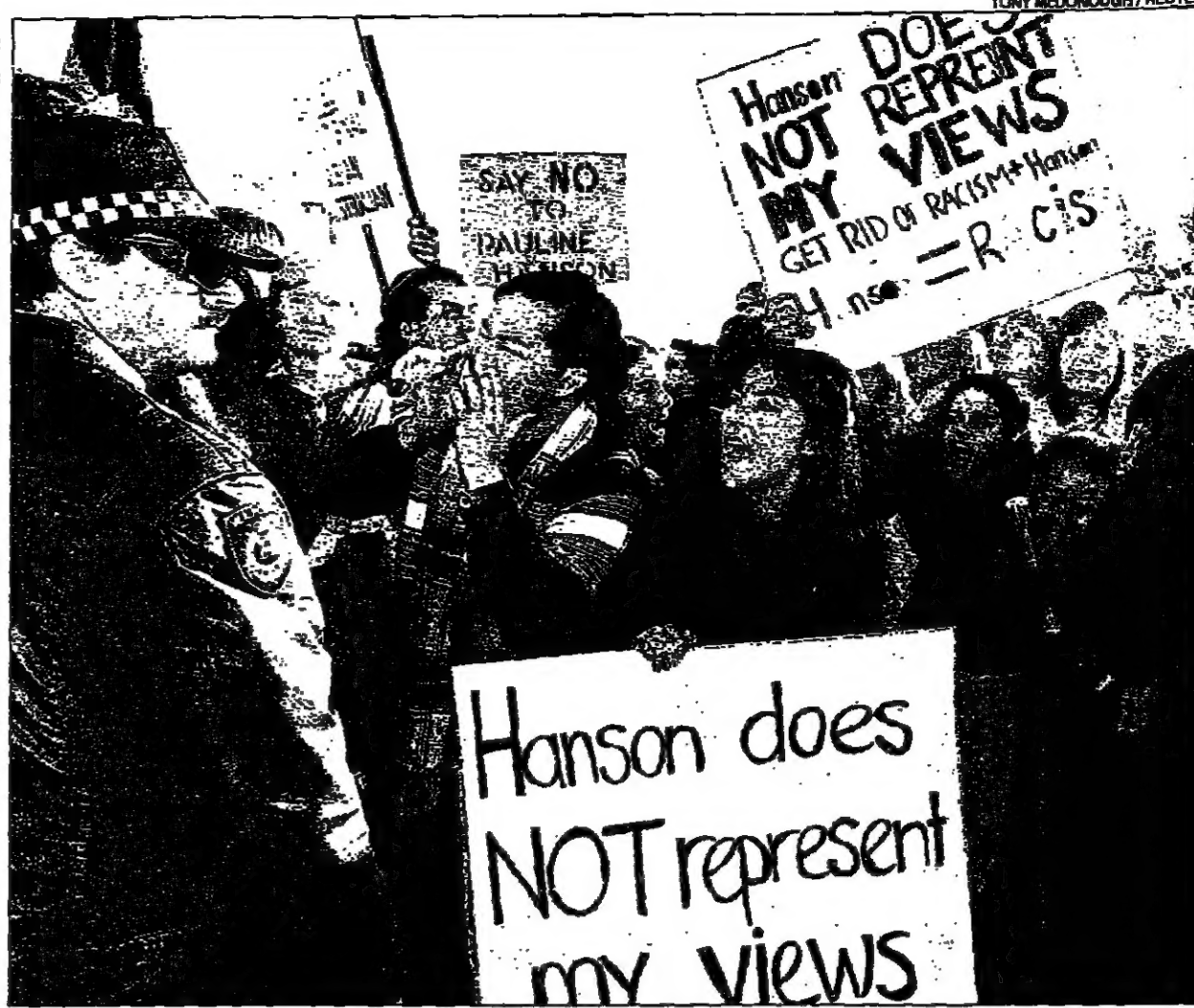
Those calls will have Mr Clinton's personal support. He has repeatedly hailed the agreement and other trade pacts as the greatest achievements of his first term, while three years ago Vice-President Al Gore headed the Summit of the Americas in Miami to champion free trade throughout the Western hemisphere.

Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, also called last week for Congress to back the extension of the trade pact, to prevent the US being left out as Latin American countries formed their own trading blocs. "We run the risk of becoming spectators to historic changes in what we have always considered as our hemisphere," he said.

But Mr Clinton may now find himself unable to deliver the policy which he and Mexico support. The free trade agreement is shaping up, together with China's trading status, as one of this summer's flashpoints between Congress and the White House.

Opposition to the pact was strengthened after its signature when the Mexican peso collapsed, turning the modest US trade surplus with its southern neighbour into a \$16 billion deficit. Critics now say that 100,000 US jobs have been lost to companies over the border.

The pact's supporters point out that it was the peso crisis, not the agreement itself, which made American products too expensive for Mexican consumers, and claim that more jobs have been created than lost. But the evidence is so far too slender to give their argument much weight in Congress.



Banner-waving demonstrators shout at Pauline Hanson as she carries her campaign against Asians and Aborigines into Perth. The Prime Minister is accusing her of damaging Australia's interests overseas

'White Australia' champion met by hail of abuse in anti-racist protest

From Roger Maynard in Sydney

THOUSANDS of demonstrators hurled eggs, tomatoes and abuse yesterday as Pauline Hanson, the outspoken Australian MP, took her campaign to Perth.

In what police labelled the biggest demonstrations in Western Australia since the Vietnam War, crowds chanted "no racism here" and "keep the racist out" as she arrived for rallies to promote her new One Nation Party. Scuffles broke out as tactical response officers clashed with protesters: two people were arrested.

Ms Hanson, the redheaded Queenslander who has polarised opinion since being elected to parliament last year, admitted afterwards that it was her toughest 24 hours since being elected. But the right-wing politician who has angered many Australians with her views denigrating Asians and Aborigines

pledged to carry on: "I will stand by what I believe in, and they are not going to change my mind."

The Perth protest came as politicians moved to condemn the woman whose stance has won support and criticism in equal measure. Malcolm Fraser, the former Prime Minister, described her views as repugnant and offensive. "Her white, Anglo-Celtic, Caucasian Australia would become full of racial discord and bitterness," he said. John Howard, the Prime Minister, is out to destroy her party. In a speech this week aimed at Asia, he is expected to accuse her of damaging Australia's interests overseas.

But the former fish-and-chip shop owner, at 43 a mother of four, is enjoying a level of support that could win her the balance of power in the upper house at the next general election: her staff are taking phone calls inquiring about membership once every 30 seconds.



Hanson: escorted past the angry demonstrators

Separatist siege ends in Texas

Los Angeles: The week-long siege that had tested the patience of Texas and forced nearly a hundred people from their homes ended on Saturday (Giles Whitell writes).

Leaving behind ten rifles, 24 pipe bombs and about 700 rounds of ammunition, Robert McLaren signed what he called a ceasefire between his "Republic of Texas" and the US Government and was taken to jail with three other members of the separatist clique. Two others fled into the Davis Mountains and were still at large yesterday.

Anger aired

Cairo: Two hundred passengers, including foreign tourists, stormed a Cairo airport runway and forced their way on to an EgyptAir plane after a sandstorm at Aswan delayed the flight for 22 hours. (AFP)

Battle for town

Freetown: The Sierra Leonean Army and a militia of local hunters fought for control of the eastern town of Kenema and bodies littered the streets, military sources said. At least ten died, they said. (Reuters)

Baby 'witch' dies

Calcutta: A two-day-old Indian baby girl was thrown on to her mother's funeral pyre in Assam state because villagers believed the infant was a witch and caused the 22-year-old's death, officials said. (AFP)

Gang killings

Macao: Gunmen on motorcycles shot and killed three men in a car here in the latest case blamed on a gang war over gambling. Rivalry between gangs has claimed 14 lives this year, police said. (AP)

Two executed

Riyadh: Arif Beltran and Robert Jida, two Filipinos convicted of robbery and beating a store employee with an iron pipe, were beheaded, taking the number of Saudi Arabian executions this year to 24. (AP)

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THE TIMES MONDAY MAY 5 1997

Hong Kong opposition bolstered by new party

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

TWO HUNDRED activists marched yesterday to the office of Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive-designate of the Government here after the July handover to China, protesting against his proposed laws to limit political parties and demonstrations.

Meanwhile, Christine Loh, one of the most charismatic politicians in Hong Kong, announced the formation of her new Citizens' Party which calls for mass participation in the city's political life instead of the executive-led regime advocated by both the colonial and the future rulers.

The two hundred supporters of the Democratic Party, which holds the largest number of seats in the elected Legislative Council, to be abolished by Beijing on July 1 in favour of an appointed one, handed in 2,000 letters for Mr Tung opposing his intention to reduce civil rights laws.

They listened to speeches from some of the party's leaders and sang songs composed for the huge demonstration here on June 4, 1989, expressing "horror" at the Tiananmen Square massacre.



Loh campaigning for mass participation.

Sze Ho Wah, a Legislative Council member whom China has labelled a "black hand" (subversive), told the crowd that this was the anniversary of the May 4 Movement of 1919, when Beijing intellectuals called for an end to imperialism and the beginning of democracy. He declared: "China is free of imperialism, but it is waiting for democracy."

Mr Sze said: "We will register with the police for demonstrations but if they refuse, we will demonstrate anyway. It is our right to criticise the Government." One member of the crowd said: "China is going to reimpose laws here which the British once used to suppress leftists. I hate this kind of thing."

At the launch of her party, Ms Loh, 41, an independent member of the present Legislative Council and one of the most admired politicians in the colony, who will be out of a job on July 1, said that her steering committee, made up of 16 citizens from all walks of life, wants a democratic Hong Kong in which the priorities are protection of the environment and contact with China while maintaining much autonomy. "I am for political competition in ideas," she said, "but against adversarial politics, making personal attacks on other groups."

Martin Lee, chairman of the Democrats, attended the launch. Asked whether he supported Ms Loh's advocacy of universal suffrage as soon as possible, Mr Lee said: "That possibility is now dead in Hong Kong." But he supported the new party. There are many more democrats in Hong Kong than members of my party, and this adds more people to the democratic forces.



Students from Hong Kong and Beijing pledge allegiance to China in Tiananmen Square yesterday. They stood below the giant clock which counts down the days ending Britain's rule on July 1. There were 1,997

1,997 students hail countdown to Chinese takeover

students at the ceremony — to mark the year of its return to Chinese sovereignty. President Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, the Chinese Prime

Minister, will attend the ceremony marking the handover, a Hong Kong newspaper said yesterday. According to the Chinese-language *Ming*

Pao, Britain and China have agreed to stage a 35-minute ceremony to mark the transfer of power. Quoting sources in Beijing, it said that

after the ceremony President Jiang would return to the Chinese capital to attend official celebrations there. Mr Li would remain in the

territory to attend celebrations staged by the Chinese side. The colonial Government has said Britain and China had invited representatives from more than 40 countries to witness the changeover. (Reuters)

Khmer Rouge wooed in Cambodia power game

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

DEFEATED on the battlefield, the Khmer Rouge appears to be making a comeback in the political arena as Cambodia's fragile governing coalition warring within itself to recruit the former guerrillas. One senior foreign official called them "a cancer inside the body politic."

Informed foreign sources told *The Times* that there was still "a lot of friendly radio contact" between those

Khmer Rouge who have supposedly defected to the government side and hardline guerrillas in a last bastion.

King Norodom Sihanouk has said that the country's Co-Prime Ministers — his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of the royalist party, Funcinpec, and Hun Sen, leader of the Cambodian People's Party, the former Communists — were responsible for "the dying Khmer Rouge being saved from a certain death."

Last week Nykhorn, a Khmer

Rouge battle commander and known killer, was appointed a Defence Ministry adviser and made a lieutenant-general. "This is not a surprise," said Ek Sereyvat, Secretary for Defence. "This is national reconciliation."

Under Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge ruler from 1975 to 1979, more than a million Cambodians died from execution, overwork and starvation. The Khmer Rouge signed a 1991 United Nations-sponsored plan, but later reneged on the deal. Since then it has

been fighting the coalition Government formed after UN-sponsored elections in 1993.

Ieng Sary, the former Khmer Rouge Foreign Minister, "defected" last August, but he and his cohorts are still in charge of those areas they controlled — all rich through precious gems and illegal logging — and have escaped capture.

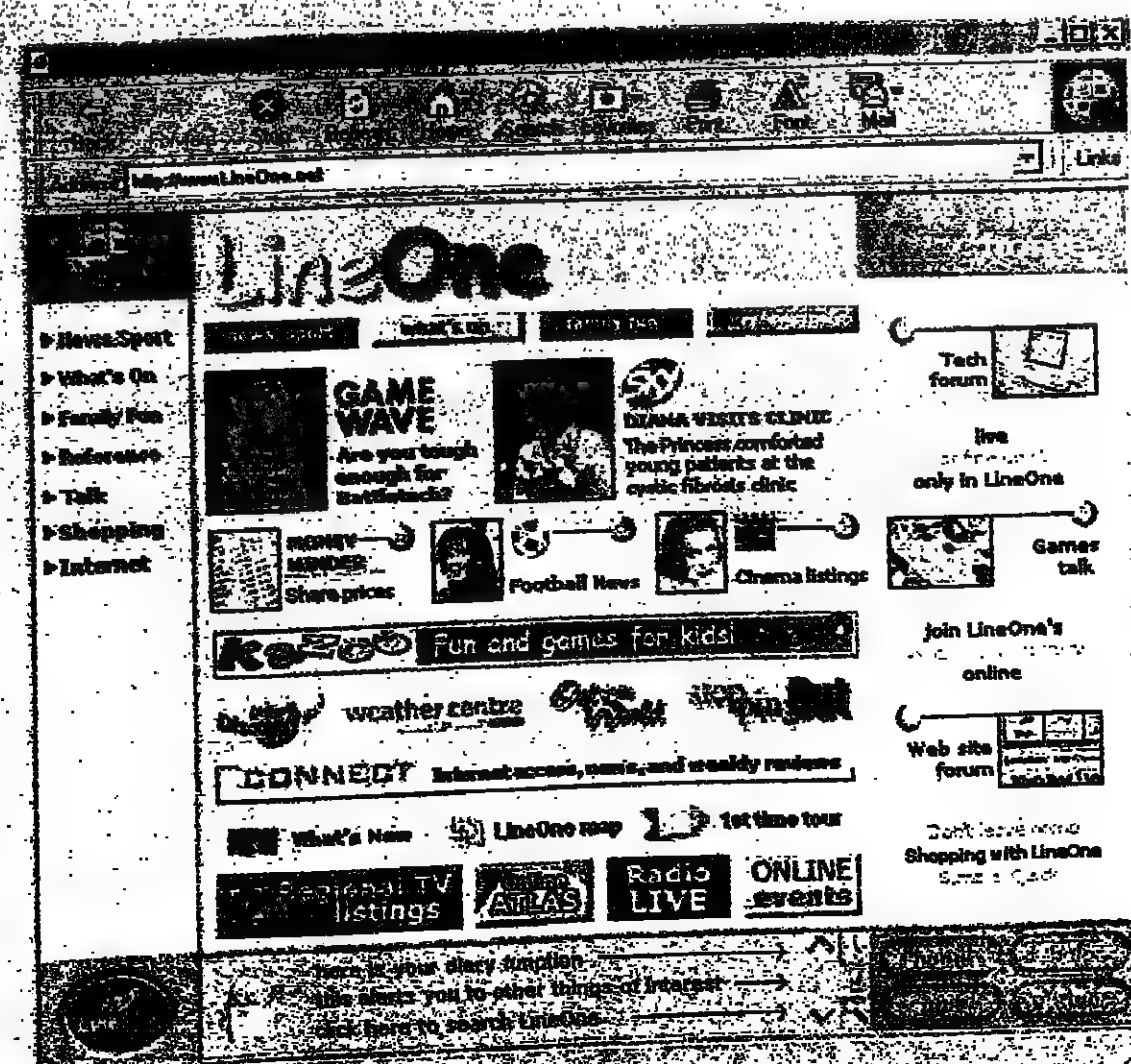
At a Phnom Penh "reconciliation" meeting last week of officials and military leaders of the coalition parties, Sokheap and Y Chhlean,

two Khmer Rouge generals who "defected" with Ieng Sary, were present. Diplomats note that Khmer Rouge support could be vital for the parties as they compete in next year's elections for sole power, but call it a dangerous game.

"Friendly radio contact" is said to take place between the defectors at Pailin and Phnom Malai and hardline Khmer Rouge leaders under General Ta Mok, the "Butcher", who fight the Government from a base at Anlong Veng in the north.



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Kabila threatens to take Kinshasa by force if President refuses to surrender power

Mobutu is given eight days to quit as talks collapse

ZAIRE'S peace talks collapsed last night after Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, rejected an offer from President Mobutu and pledged to fight his way into the capital.

At their first face-to-face meeting on board a South African warship, Mr. Kabila told Mr. Mobutu that he would accept his resignation only if he handed power directly to the rebel leader. However, the President, whose 32 years in power in effect ended yesterday, said that he would hand over only to a transitional government "after elections".

The argument was largely academic as the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire began closing in on Kinshasa, the capital. Drivers living on the outskirts of the city said that the guerrillas were about 40 miles from Ndjili airport, which is on the edge of sprawling Kinshasa.

Using a blend of guile and military might, Mr. Kabila managed to "trap" and besiege Mr. Mobutu into offering his resignation before pledging to take over Kinshasa early this week.

At the talks hosted by Pres-



Sam Kiley, in three reports from Kinshasa, looks at the prospects for peace and the personalities behind the conflict

ident Mandela of South Africa. Mr. Kabila was confident and ebullient as he agreed to offer the silted President eight days to consider his resignation. "But I have told him and the mediators that there will be no ceasefire while he considers our demands," said Mr. Kabila after the meeting, adding that his forces would soon attack Kinshasa's international airport.

"Little resistance is expected from Zaire's disorganised government soldiers. They have run from the advancing rebels for the last seven months and abandoned city after city with little or no fighting," he said.

In the last week Kilwit and Kenge, both on the road to Kinshasa, were abandoned by the special presidential division before rebels had a chance to get to the limits of the towns. But most residents are anxious that the rebels

come into Kinshasa as soon as possible to prevent the government soldiers going on a looting rampage ahead of their surrender.

The police and gendarmerie have collapsed into a rabble after their salaries were not paid last month. Kinshasa banks have been closed for nearly a week because there is little money in circulation. Members of Mr. Mobutu's family were yesterday packing to leave Zaire before the rebels arrive while others boasted that they would "fight to the end".

Such a pledge was more bluster than reality. Mr. Mobutu's sons with military training have only a reputation for thuggery and cowardice.

"With Mobutu effectively out of power after offering to resign, there is no one in control of the army. They are



Women join in mass prayer in a slum area of Kinshasa as Mr. Kabila's forces were reported to be heading for the airport in the capital

desperate and scared and may try to wreck the city before they give in to the rebels," said Ali Moussa, the owner of a supermarket.

After the meeting in Pointe Noire in neighbouring Congo, Mr. Mandela said that "the question of a ceasefire is not part of (Mr. Kabila's) vocabulary".

As his troops were closing

on Kinshasa, the capital, Mr. Kabila is under pressure to agree to a ceasefire in a non-war and agree to a transitional government leading to elections.

But Western analysts believe that Mr. Kabila, a Maoist in his youth, is too old to change his spots and may prove difficult to persuade when it comes to respecting

human rights and democratic principles once he has Kinshasa in his grasp.

"He wants nothing other than being the new President of Zaire," said a senior European diplomat. With the military power, and a revolutionary zeal that has burnt for 30 years, it looked as if his ambition would be fulfilled.

The danger that advancing rebels might spark chaos in Kinshasa put foreign troops, including British Marines, on standby to evacuate expatriates last night.

Several hundred British, French, American and Belgian troops have been based across the Congo river in Brazzaville for more than a month conducting exercises in rubber boats aimed at pluck-

ing their citizens from a city in flames.

□ **Kisumu:** Dozens of Rwandan Hutu refugees were suffocated or crushed to death yesterday in a train carrying them from a refugee camp in Zaire to be repatriated by air. More than 100 people were feared dead. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21

The puppet guerrilla who learnt to pull the strings

LAURENT KABILA, peering over his shoulders from a scruffy low sofa in a borrowed bungalow in Uvira last November, made an extraordinary boast. "We are not just interested in taking Kivu. We are dedicated to overthrowing Mobutu and ending his criminal rule. We are going all the way to Kinshasa."

The statement from the poly-revolutionary, wheeled out as the nominal leader of a mainly Tutsi rebellion, was greeted with incredulous grins. Eyes turned towards his pygmy bodyguard in mismatched gym shoes and a raincoat shiny with dirt. Glim-

ples were barely suppressed. Then it was obvious that Mr. Kabila, 58, was little more than a puppet: a non-Tutsi leader paraded to legitimise a "rebellion" orchestrated by President Museveni of Uganda and Paul Kagame, the Rwandan Vice-President.

Their aims were to clear eastern Zaire of Ugandan rebel groups and armed Rwandan Hutu refugees who were destabilising their own countries, and to prevent a threatened mass slaughter of Tutsis within eastern Zaire. The policy had the diplomatic backing of the United States, even though it involved "lend-

ing" large numbers of experienced Tutsi officers and guerrillas from the Ugandan and Rwandan armies.

But no one — not the CIA, the Ugandans, nor the Rwandans — could really have believed that just seven months later Mr. Kabila would meet President Mobutu face to face to accept the big man's resignation while his bush fighters were advancing on the capital.

"Nothing leads me to believe he is the man of the hour," Che Guevara said of Mr. Kabila in 1965. Thirty-two years on, it seems his time has come.



Mobutu: stole profits of mineral wealth

Superstar eclipsed by greed

PRESIDENT MOBUTU, his skin loose and greying with an illness that has rotted his bones and extinguished his superstar glow, yesterday offered his resignation to save a state as cancerous as his body.

Just as he was largely responsible for the spread of the disease now killing him, so Africa's last dictator sealed his own fate by installing a system for which a new term had to be coined: kleptocracy.

Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu wa za Banga, 66, is not as mad or bad as many African leaders of his generation. He did not proclaim himself Emperor, like Jean-Bedel Bokassa, or "King of Scotland" like Idi Amin. Nor did he slaughter his subjects

he murdered his political opponents, but did not keep bits of children in his refrigerator. But he did steal. He took from Zaire the profits of its vast mineral wealth and stole the dignity of its people.

After 32 years of his rule, much of Zaire is back in the Iron Age. Trees grow up through the main streets of cities of hundreds of thousands of people where, as in Manono, they have not seen a car or radio for 15 years.

He was able to plunder the state coffers because until 1989 the West saw him as the only man capable of holding Zaire's 250 tribes together, and because Washington saw him as a bulwark against the spread of communism.

Mr. Mobutu's first contacts with the West came in the late 1950s when he worked as a freelance reporter with a French news agency and caught the eye of the CIA. He was encouraged to join the army and embark on a career that would result in his self-appointment as "marshal" and "father of the nation".

Mr. Mobutu, who had stashed away an estimated \$9 billion (£5 billion), turned to voodoo priests for guidance. He took the potions of the marabouts from Senegal and Benin to treat the prostate cancer killing him.

Mr. Mobutu's legacy is a country in which the only way to survive is by theft, guile and the ability to suffer.

US air chiefs test 'gay pilot suicide' theory

Los Angeles: The US Air Force is looking into reports that one of its pilots deliberately crashed his plane out of fear that a former lover might reveal their alleged homosexual affair (Giles Whitwell writes).

Captain Craig Burton flew 800 miles off course during a training mission and crashed

his A10 "Warthog" aircraft into a mountain in the Colorado Rockies last month.

Investigators now consider suicide the most plausible explanation, according to an unnamed military source quoted in the *Tucson Citizen* newspaper, which also reported claims by one of Captain Burton's fellow officers that

the dead pilot was homosexual and dreaded being "outed" by a former lover.

The crash initially prompted fears of a plot to steal the fully armed plane, but now raises serious questions about the ban on open homosexuality in America's armed forces. Under the current "don't ask, don't tell" regime, had Cap-

tain Burton been revealed as a homosexual he could have been discharged.

The allegations surfaced on the day of his funeral in Massapequa, his home town in New York state. "Our son was buried today," said Joan, his mother. "Anything that happened in the air force we have no interest in."

Shot Gypsy beatified by Pope

FROM REUTERS
IN ROME

A GYPSY shot by firing squad during the Spanish Civil War was beatified by the Pope yesterday, becoming the first member of the nomadic people to take the road to Roman Catholic sainthood.

Thousands of European Gypsies were among the 40,000 people who attended a Mass in St Peter's Square to witness the celebration of Celerino Jimenez Malla, an illiterate gypsy horse trader known as El Pele.

The waiting of a gypsy violin and a soulful Spanish guitar mingled with the traditional Latin chanting of a choir in one of the Vatican's most colourful Masses. Many of the pilgrims, most from Spain, wore traditional clothes including bright bandanas. The Pope was also brightly clad with vestments of fiery red, yellow and orange.

Jimenez was one of five people the Pope declared blessed by the Church. The Gypsy, who lived near Barastro, northeast of Zaragoza, tried to improve his people's relations with non-Gypsies. Deeply religious, he was arrested in July 1936 by an anti-clerical militia after he publicly defended a priest.

When asked if he had any weapons, Jimenez, 75, extracted a rosary from his pocket. He was killed later by firing squad with a number of priests and others arrested by forces opposed to Franco.

The Pope said that today's Gypsies, of whom there are between seven and ten million in Europe, should see Jimenez as a model because he tried to sow harmony among diverse people.

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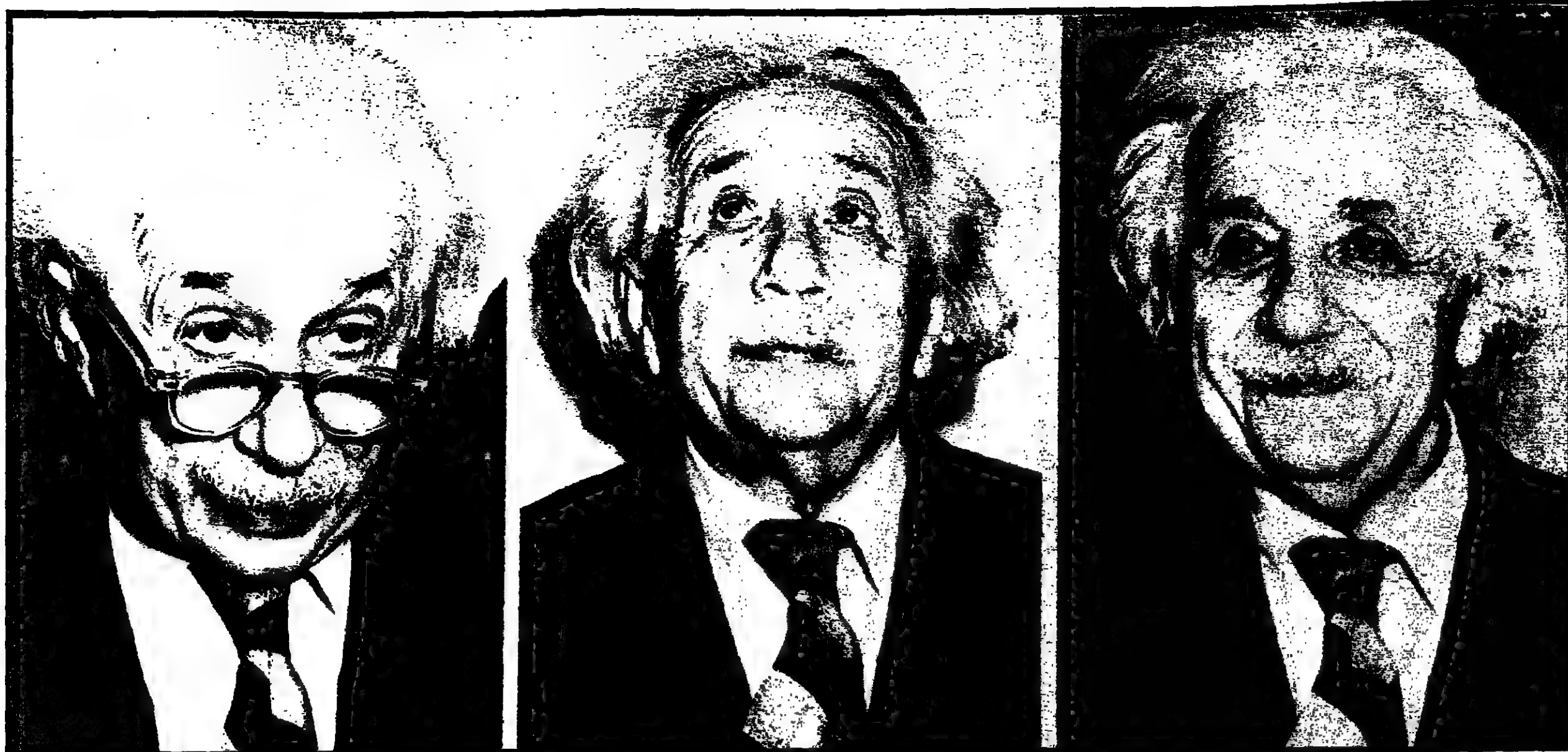
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Albert Einstein: transformed the entire understanding of physical science. John Horgan's book, *The End of Science*, argues that most of the great scientific discoveries have been made and we may never again see work like Einstein's.

Is science nearing the final frontier?

If there is one thing scientists hate to hear, it is that the game's over. Raised on the belief of an endless frontier of discovery, they recoil from the suggestion that most of the best things have already been located. If they have — if Newton, Darwin, Einstein and half-a-dozen other giants have already appropriated the great themes — then today's scientists can hope to contribute no more than a few grace notes to the symphony of science.

A book to be published here next week, *The End of Science*, argues persuasively that this is the case. Its author, Mr John Horgan, is a senior writer on *Scientific American*, who has interviewed many of today's leading scientists and philosophers of science. The shock of realising that science might have an end came to him, he says, when he was talking to Sir Roger Penrose, the Oxford mathematician and physicist.

"Solving mysteries is a wonderful thing to do," Sir Roger said. "And if they were all solved, somehow, that would be rather boring." Until then, Mr Horgan says, "I believed what most people believe — that we would have a succession of great revolutions and profound discoveries for ever." That was why, after majoring in English at Columbia University in New York, he had abandoned literary criticism for the nonsensical approach of science and become a science writer.

"I had taken it for granted that science was open-ended, even infinite," he writes. Triggered by Sir Roger's remark, he became obsessed with the issue. "What are the limits of science, if any? Is science infinite, or is it as mortal as we are? If the latter, is the end in sight? Is it upon us?"

The conventional answer is to point to the large areas of ignorance that remain, all

The great days of scientific discovery are nearing an end, according to a controversial book out next week. Nigel Hawkes reports

grist to science's mill. But even if we accept there is a lot to learn about how a single cell becomes an animal, or what causes cancer, nobody is going to re-invent natural selection, relativity or the genetic code. Like poets forever in the shadow of Shakespeare and Dante, today's scientists bear a heavy burden.

Mr Horgan says: "These theories are not merely beautiful: they are also true, empirically true, in the way no work of art can be."

Borrowing the ideas of literary criticism, he argues that much of modern science has been forced to become ironic. Trying to live with what the critic Harold Bloom called "the embarrassments of a tradition grown too wealthy to need anything more", scientists either become puzzle-solvers, tidying up odd corners, or pursue science in a speculative, post-empirical mode.

"Ironic science resembles literary criticism in that it offers points of view which are, at best, interesting, which provoke further comment," Mr Horgan argues. "But it does not converge on the truth."

By his definition, large areas of cosmology and physics, chaos theory, complexity, and much of the work in consciousness studies as "ironic science". Professor Stephen Hawking, with his talk of naked singularities and other esoterica, is, he



John Horgan: denounced in the US

says, "a master practitioner of ironic physics and cosmology". So is Dr Edward Witten of Princeton, a leading expert in superstrings, a theory of physics that holds the world to be constructed ultimately not of point-like particles, but of minute loops of energy. Superstrings are ten-dimensional, and occupy a space as small in comparison to the proton as the proton is to the solar system.

Proving the superstring theory true by traditional scientific methods appears impossible — it would need a particle accelerator 1,000 light years in circumference.

Yet this does not stop Dr Witten insisting that theories that have been subjected to proof by experiment, such as

relativity and quantum mechanics, are mere spin-offs from superstring theory. "Good wrong ideas are extremely scarce," he asserts, "and good wrong ideas that even remotely rival the majesty of string theory have never been seen." In other words, it is too beautiful a theory to be wrong: an artistic rather than a scientific judgment.

The End of Science provoked a wave of denunciation in the US last year. "The reaction has been one of complete shock and disbelief," Mr Horgan says. He has been accused of a failure of imagination, of pandering to a millennial sense of gloom, of narcissism for insisting that ours is a special era of crises and culminations.

The book is not, he asserts, anti-science. The portraits he paints of scientists are occasionally sharp, but always well-observed. Privately, scientists are much ruder about other scientists than Mr Horgan is.

A more cogent criticism is that in every age there have been sceptics declaring that everything worthwhile has already been discovered.

The classic example was an oft-quoted opinion attributed to the eminent physicist Lord Kelvin at the end of the 19th century: that the future truths of physical science were to be looked for "in the sixth place of decimals" — just before Einstein transformed the entire understanding of the subject.

The fact is that once you

know how the Universe began, how life evolved, and what matter is made of, you cannot discover these things anew. The real question is whether any of the unsolved problems, of which there are plenty, lend themselves to solutions of such a general and universal nature.

If they do not, then the focus of scientific discovery is already narrowing. Since the triumphs of the 1960s — the genetic code, plate tectonics, and the microwave background radiation that went a long way towards proving the Big Bang — genuine scientific revolutions have been in short supply.

There are more scientists alive today, spending more money on research, than ever. Yet most of the great discoveries of the 19th and 20th centuries were made before the advent of state sponsorship, when the scientific enterprise was a fraction of its present size.

Were the scientists who made these discoveries brighter than today's? That seems unlikely. A far more plausible explanation is that fundamental science has already entered a period of diminished returns.

"Look, don't get me wrong," says Mr Horgan. "There are lots of important things still to study, and applied science and engineering can go on for ever. I hope we get a cure for cancer, and for mental disease, though there are few real signs of progress."

"But if we do, what I am saying is that they will fall within the framework of understanding we already have. If one believes in science, one must accept the possibility — even the probability — that the great era of scientific discovery is over."

● *The End of Science*, published by Little, Brown, £18.99

□ A challenge to Einstein's theory

Battle of the bulge

EXTRAORDINARY claims demand extraordinary evidence. When, two weeks ago, two physicists claimed that the Universe is not the same in all directions, there was a sharp intake of breath. Now, after looking at the evidence, most of their colleagues seem to have concluded that they have failed to make their case.

To the layman, the claim may not seem so outlandish. After all, we are used to things having an up and a down, a left and a right, a north and a south. Normal things are not the same in all directions. But to show that the universe as a whole behaves differently, depending which way you slice it has momentous implications. For a start, it would overturn Einstein's theory of relativity, which holds that physical laws are the same everywhere in the universe.

The physicists, Dr Borje Nordland, of the University of Rochester in New York, and Dr John Ralston, of the University of Kansas, analysed 160 observations of distant galaxies made with radio telescopes and found that radio signals coming from one direction — the constellation Sextans — appeared minutely different from the ones originating 90 degrees away in the sky. The polarisation, or the preferred direction of oscillation, of the radio waves differed, depending on which direction the physicists looked.

The radiation they studied, called electro-

magnetic synchrotron radiation, is highly plane-polarised, which means that its electric field oscillates in one preferred direction, the plane of polarisation. As the waves travel through space, intergalactic magnetic fields and charged particles can rotate the plane of polarisation, in a process called Faraday rotation.

In *Physical Review Letters*, the physicists said that "even when this is allowed for, the plane of polarisation undergoes a further twist — and that this depends on the direction in which the waves are moving through space. This would directly contradict the belief that space is isotropic (the same in all directions) and homogeneous (the same in all places)."

Critics argue that it is wrong to assume that all radio galaxies emit radiation of a single, predictable polarisation. They also say that the data is old, dating from before 1980, and that the effect would vanish if a newer, larger set of data were used.

Dr Ralston says that if the observations are confirmed, they could indicate, for example, that the Big Bang was not as perfect as always assumed, but may have bulged out more in one direction than another. It could be that hypothetical particles called axions could be twisting the radio waves. But because nobody has ever seen one, that may be stretching credulity too far.



Ancestral line of a fine wine



THE average wine buff might hazard a guess at the ancestry of the cabernet sauvignon grape as a cross between the cabernet franc and the sauvignon blanc grape. The true Bordeaux expert would demur. The origins of this fine grape, the basis of claret, have been variously attributed to Spain and even Central Asia.


Now genetic analysis has proved the amateur right and the experts wrong. Professor Carole Meredith and John Bowers of the University of California at Davis used genetic "fingerprinting" to examine 51 grape varieties. Reporting in *Nature Genetics*, they conclude that cabernet sauvignon was a cross, which probably occurred accidentally some time in the 17th century, between its similarly named parents. Professor Meredith says: "A close link between cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc had been suspected, but no one had any idea that sauvignon blanc was related."

Solving an ancient jigsaw



DATA from the European Space Agency satellite ERS-1 has been used to fill in the blanks in the history of Antarctica. The results confirm the existence of a missing piece of the jigsaw that made up Gondwanaland 180 million years ago. Today's continents can be fitted together to recreate the supercontinent, but only if an extra piece, called the Bellingshausen Plate, is used to fill a gap where New Zealand broke away from Antarctica. This plate can no longer be seen, so must have fused with the Antarctic plate later and lost its identity.

Now Drs Seymour Laxon of the Mullard Space Science Laboratory in Surrey and David McAdoo of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have proved it existed by mapping the sea floor using ERS-1 instruments to measure tiny variations in the sea surface, reflecting changes in the Earth's gravitational pull, caused by mountains and valleys on the seabed.



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surviving the slimming season

In part one of a series for slimmers and those who have to live with them, Nigella Lawson and Valerie Grove reveal the secrets of their diets

TOMORROW

Why slimmers are the scourge of restaurants

Never say diet — that's if you really want to lose weight. I do not mean by this to invoke the Geoffrey Cannon Dieting-Makes-You-Fat school of nutritional thought, or the Susie Orbach Fat-is-a-Feminist-is-a-school-of-gender-conscious-thought. I mean it quite literally: diet all you like, but tell no one.

The normal anti-diet approach — the one that says that starving yourself inevitably leads to bingeing and that slowing down your metabolism by excessively reducing your calorie intake will make you put on weight more easily — has a let-go for it: the truth for one thing.

Dieting doesn't have to involve the persecution of the

foodstuffs are really just finding ways of dieting without it seeming as if they are.

If you just keep your eating habits to yourself it will be much easier to curb your excesses. No one will be trying to push another bowl of pudding on you or insist that you finish up your sautéed potatoes. Unless you draw attention to it, they won't notice whether you've eaten them up or not. They have better things to think about. But there seem to be some self-obsessed dieters who want to have their every mouthful draw attention to it: why else go into a restaurant and start haggling with the chef via the hapless waiter about how the food is going to be cooked.

Take it from someone who is both very greedy and who worked as a restaurant critic for 12 years that it is easy to lose weight by eating in restaurants. If you're greedy (and carry excess weight) then the chances are it is the portions you give yourself to eat at home that have made you fat. In a restaurant there are no second helpings. In my book, that's dieting.

What's more, in a restaurant there is always something plain and relatively low-fat on the menu, especially now that culinary fashions are for succulent grills and unburnt neo-Italianian constructivism.

Anyway, it is still the case that even high-fat food is relatively low in calories in restaurants: the portions are just not large enough to add up to much. Indeed, I felt positively virtuous eating my way through an entire rhapsodically good pig's trotter at the newly opened Novelli '88 the other night, why the mashed potato that came with it wouldn't have filled even half of my serving spoons at home. I don't say that as a complaint, but as cause for celebration: it makes it easier to eat food that at home you might refrain from eating.

Going to eat in people's houses can be harder. At least I found that the hardest obstacle when I had to lose the post-baby pounds. But then, because I write about food, I have to eat third helpings before people believe that I find their food delicious. (You see? Everyone has their own excuse.)



Nigella Lawson

self (successful dieting, indeed, must involve the persecution of others. If you want to lose weight, do, but don't cause the suffering of innocent victims. Keep quiet about it.)

I learnt this the hard way when I put on stones after the birth of my first child. I made the preliminary mistake of telling people that I had to lose weight. But I learnt better. The reasons for keeping stumps are threefold: talking about dieting is a bore; everyone will try, if only out of politeness, to talk you out of it and, crucially, if you tell people you need to lose weight they will notice that perhaps you do.

If you don't tell them you're on a diet they won't even notice. I have come to the conclusion that there are more people practising this art than let on. All those people who won't eat x with y and profess all sorts of intolerance to supposedly weight-inducing



It's easiest to lose weight if you feel self-confident, but it is weight loss that makes you self-confident

My maternal grandmother was of the view (expressed only privately) that vegetarians or people on diets shouldn't accept invitations to dinner. In fact, though, she slaved away resolutely but solicitously to produce requisite alternatives. I think these days it would be hard to be quite so anti-vegetarian, but I don't see why dieters should be especially catered for. It is always possible, with the minimum of fuss, to eat food that isn't going to cause havoc. Any diet that can't accommodate the occasional lapse (I don't approve of the terminology of sin, or crime, for that matter) is a diet bound to fail.

But whatever you do, don't warn people of your diet or draw attention to it while you're there. It's so aggressive to do that, so self-centred, and so dispiriting: you'll just be a party-pooper. Once people

know about the diet, they'll feel that you can't enjoy yourself until you eat and drink to Rabelaisian excess. They'll feel you're being dried-up and puritanical and drained of *jolie de vivre*. But if you don't make an issue of it, they won't think of looking at your plate to see how much you've helped yourself to.

I'd advise against leaving food on your plate, though. It may have been thought to be genteel once upon a time: I think it's inconsiderate verging on the rude. But if you really do want to leave some food, if the thought of eating whatever it is fills you with panic, then be the one to jump up and clear the plates so no

'Eat like a thin person is the best dietary advice'

one else sees.

Drink is one thing you need to give up or curb when you're on a diet, but you have an easy excuse here anyway: just say you're driving. Again, there is no need for anyone really to notice. Just let your glass be filled but leave it at that. (Leaving

drink in the glass is less rude than leaving food on the plate because no one present has gone to effort to produce it: you don't need to worry about the sensibility of the wine-grower or vintner, after all.)

There may well be nobler spirits out there, but I find the assault on one's vanity the hardest thing about dieting. It's bad enough you need to lose weight, but drawing other

'By June I'll be as spiky as a needle. By Christmas I'll be a cushion'

Farewell croissants and jam, my annual war on flab is declared

Elly was right: April is the cruelest month. When the lilac is in bloom, I start my annual fitness boom, and embark on trying to shed the ten pounds which, like Mr Micawber's sixpence, hang flabbily between me and happiness.

I once confided to Eleanor Bron over lunch that I seem to have a winter weight and a summer weight, and what I longed to be was my summer weight all year round. "Why?" she said, coolly. "Why don't you just accept that you have two different weights?" Instead, I continue to be afflicted annually by scales rage. I get madly and morose by the end of March, and go on a diet-and-exercise jag in order to become svelte and sweet-natured by summer. One year, when I became noticeably leaner, a colleague left a note on my typewriter:

Said the Features Ed to Miss Valerie:
"It's clear that you count every calorie."

Well, slim if you must. But lose half your bust. And you'll only be worth half your salary."

The springtime fasting began in undergraduate days. I went to interview Miss World for the student paper and asked her the secret of eternal slenderness. She drawled: "Don't eat." Testing the truth of this theory, I managed to dwindle into the slinky May Ball gown my sister had made for me.

Foolishly, I left my diary lying around with a record of my daily food intake: "I Ryvita, I boiled egg, black coffee," etc. ... and then found a waggish friend had filled in the ensuing days with "2 peas, 1 lettuce leaf, three blades grass," followed by a black-lined day: "R.I.P. dear V."

For the moment, no breakfast croissant with apricot jam passes my lips. Instead, I confront a platter of sliced orange, pear, apple and mango, prepared by my husband, artistically and lovingly. No, not lovingly, tyrannically. He cannot stand my morning yelp of rage on the bathroom scales, followed by my piggyish consumption of the Wrong Kind of Breakfast.

The beady-eyed husband always knows when I have hacked into the brie (Dr Stuttaford says brie is good for you) and finished off the red wine (Dr Stuttaford says two glasses are obligatory every evening). The children can never be suspected, since they insistently eat nothing but cereals, crisps, cake and chocolate, and never put on an ounce.

Last week I could not avoid attending three of the dieter's pitfalls: official luncheons and dinners in great chandelied rooms with forests of wine-



Valerie Grove

glasses. Every meal started with some rich moussey fish thing, then some chicken thing with large heads of broccoli and mast potatoes, then some rich creamy sweet thing, and then chocolatey mini things with coffee and port. Curse them! I know that going to a dinner does not mean you have to eat everything they plonk in front of you, but sitting among strangers and listening to speeches always makes you consume six times more than anyone should.

To counteract this bloating regime, I go to my exercise class every other day, including Sunday. If Diana, Princess of Wales can do it, surely I can. A mere 70 paces from my door is the Coolhurst Fitness Studio, opened six years ago by the amazing Mandy, a former ballet dancer who even now, during her third pregnancy, is a sylph.

I find aerobics addictive, anti-depressant and alluringly effective. Once I venture back to class, I need my daily fix. Today it was Total Sculpt with Louise, a really tough class with elastic bands and weights.

Weights: I never thought I'd take up power-walking, but on my morning dog-walk I kept seeing Frank Bruno's trainer whizzing past me carrying dumbbells, and felt feebly under-exercised. So I've bought a pair of modest two pounders. On Hampstead Heath any loony behaviour is ignored — walking backwards uphill to hone the hamstrings, hugging trees — so a madwoman flailing her triceps as she walks excites no curiosity whatever.

The writer Sue Limb once remarked that every woman decides at a certain point in her life whether she is going to age into a needle or a cushion. Very true. By June I shall be spiky as a needle. Next Christmas I shall veer recklessly towards the cushion type, and next spring, dammit, I shall be angrily back at the aerobics, the weights and the fruit fast again. Seven pounds still to go. Kindly peel me a grape.

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THE ROY STRONG DIARIES 1967-1987

As Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Sir Roy Strong had daily encounters with the most powerful people in the land. But despite his unhappy suburban origins he was far from being dazzled by the great and the good, as his waspish diaries record

February 15, 1976
The world continues to be full of gossip about John Pope-Hennessy leaving the British Museum. An emergency meeting of the Trustees was held, which suggests something serious as they meet monthly. An embargo on press comment has come down. No paper has carried the story. It was rumoured that he was involved in the Knightsbridge Barracks Guards case. He was involved in a similar scandal in New York. Whatever it is, it is a mighty fall by a mighty man.

March
Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon finally separated during the week of the 17th-18th. The National Theatre has opened. We went three times. We saw HRH Margaret in the interval on the second night. She was in very good form and she rang through and chatted away to me the day that the separation was announced as a coming certainty. One feels that she is relieved. She will have a terrible time making a new existence for herself as she lacks application and has a bright but untrained mind. Jackie Onassis asked us to lunch at the Ritz which looked very run-down.

April 8
We dined at 10 Downing Street. The venue was moved from Lancaster House when Callaghan ceased to be the Foreign Secretary and became PM. There is something terribly institutional about Government entertaining. I sat between the wife of the editor of *The Financial Times* who was boring and Lady Wright, a loquacious wife of an ambassador who was now secretary of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Committee.

The dinner was for the Empress of Persia who, as usual, looked stunning in her couture clothes, a sparkling embroidered top which hung over a skirt of plain silk of understated richness which moved marvellously. She made all the other women look ordinary.

Mrs Callaghan is tall and to the point. She is an intelligent woman with dark brown hair and a minimum of make-up. Her pale yellow evening dress did not sit happily upon her. She is no way a *grande dame* but a middle-class, educated, reforming mum. Callaghan strikes one as jovial, although I wasn't sure how bright he was; neither of us had an opportunity to speak to him properly. It was an odd gathering.

July 12
We went to a huge dinner given by John and Alida Russell in Chester Square for Mrs Thatcher for which we had been booked seemingly last year. I suppose that there must have been thirty for dinner and as many after. It was very ostentatious, with too many hired menservants. I counted six, which is staggering for a London dinner.

Mrs Thatcher was in floaty chiffon, an apotheosis of the boss's wife, with the appeal of cosmetics putty. I cannot understand how she has ever got that far. Mercifully we were spared Mr Thatcher. It was a useful but totally unendearing evening.

March 18, 1977
Lecturing at Northampton we stayed at Althorp. Raine, ex Lady Dartmouth, and now the new Lady Spencer, reigns triumphant. Johnnie [Spencer] is about fifty, rather dull but very well meaning and hugely affectionate. It is a great *amour* and they clasp hands at every opportunity. Raine has in many ways grown up. This time she actually took notice of Julia [Strong's wife] and didn't, as she normally does,

concentrate on the men. Althorp is now totally transformed by her from a museum into a home again.

Her own niche, thanks to the hand of Colefax & Fowler, is resplendent with a vast canopied bed, gilded mirrors, tables draped to the ground with heavily fringed cloths and everything arranged, dusted and polished to the nines. Her own little sitting-room has walls of thick striped damask. Much of the Hill Street furniture and all the bronzes are not only here but scattered all over the house. The bedroom is so splendid that the only thing out of keeping in it was himself. She is marvellous at supporting him and deferring to his views, forever saying: "Oh Johnnie, you must tell this or that story, you're so wonderful."

November 23, 1977
We dined with Ingrid Channon at Lindsay House prior to HRH Margaret's round-up for Harold Acton. It must be one of the largest private houses in central London, everything done to decorator's taste and Ingrid must spend all day banking it with flowers. The dinner consisted of the Rory McEwens,

the Lichfields, Norman St John-Stevas, Davina Woodhouse and Derek Hart.

The drawing-room at Kensington Palace presented its usual scene. HRH in plumy red with a gold belt, smoking and drinking whisky, in good form, surrounded by a motley crowd, some of whose identity we never established but included the Harlechs, the Rosses, the Tennants, a young Bacon boy, a Ramsay and Roddy (Jewell). We'd never met him before. He was like Tony round again, thirtyish, rather dapper, but very polite and assigned to a kind of "host" role getting drinks and ferrying them to people. HRH showed no overt interest in him, although he would spring up and actively join in anything that she wanted.

Anne Rosse, in her usual low-cut dress with a slit hemline and manicled in diamond stars, was very unhappy. It did seem rather tactless to ask Anne and Michael with Roddy there. She was in fact shocked and confided her embarrassment at being present at a party where her own son was replaced before her eyes by Roddy. I asked the million-dollar question, "Does Roddy stay here?" "Yes," was the reply. He's agreeable, not nearly as bright as Tony, rather silly and giggly, but kind, and she hasn't had much of that.

At one moment we were about to safely plunge for the exit when HRH clapped her hands and poor Harold Acton, seventy-three and overtired, had to sing two songs in Chinese and then she headed for the piano. I knew that we were stuck and it was Scottish ballads until 2am, with Rory McEwen bearing the brunt of it, poor soul. HRH only wielded her sceptre once on poor Leonora Lichfield. They arrived midnight and HRH told them that they had been bidden for 10.30pm.

December 6
We are bidden to lunch by Queen Elizabeth. There were the usual welcoming corgis, backed this time by the sight at the rear of the famous "drunken" hired butler we'd once seen fall backwards on a sofa with a trifle at George Weidenfeld's. Sir Alastair Aird and Sir Martin Gilliat as usual were doing the introductions. Clarence House is really like a very grand country house in London.

The Ritz crackers as usual were handed around in the packet to what was a formidable line-up, too large for cosiness really, about twenty-five in all, and too many old people. I sat between the Dowager Lady Hambleden and Ruth Fernoy, who is a thoroughly good no-nonsense sort. I'd never realised that her daughter was the displaced Lady Spencer and all the troubles when Raine [Dart-



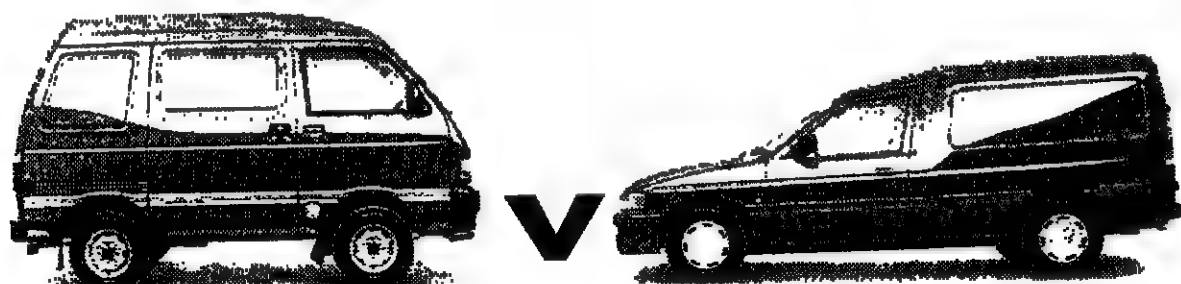
Diana was hard. There was no pulling together, no common objectives

mouth] literally "moved in".

February 13
We went to dinner with Princess Margaret, one given in honour of Sybil Cholmondeley, who apparently arrived at 8.10pm on the dot. It was a funny line-up: the actor Paul Scofield and wife, David and Rachel Cecil, Rose Cecil and some other young ones that HRH was match-making with — and Roddy. Roddy sits opposite her in the role of host. Lady Cholmondeley was very intrigued and rather shocked. HRH is an extremely good hostess and moves people around so that everybody speaks with everybody including her. Her dress was virtually topless, apart from two thin shoulder-straps, and the top was entirely made of glitter beads. Julia had Roddy come and tell all, totally unprompted, a long saga of operations on nameless parts and his singing career. What upset her were his purely selfish motives. It wouldn't last long and he should get as much out of it as possible. He is, after all, fifteen years younger at least than HRH.

Derek Hart, a loyal and loving friend to HRH (would that she'd marry him!) saw the picture. Roddy is a pretty young blond man but, unlike Tony, not bright. He apparently stays at The Royal Lodge and shortly afterwards he flew off quite publicly with HRH to Montique, where he was carried off to hospital due to internal bleeding and HRH

Continued on Page 17



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The Escort 55 is available in a wider choice of pretty colours. Oh well, you can't win them all.

5-1

NO-NONSENSE VEHICLES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE SEND THE COUPON TO DAIHATSU INFORMATION SERVICES, FREEPOST 506, SANDWICH, KENT CT13 9BN OR TELEPHONE 0800 521 700

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ TOWN _____

POSTCODE _____ TEL _____

CURRENT VEHICLE _____ MODEL _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IN BLOCK CAPITALS. PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A VAN, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR VAN. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CAR, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CAR. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A MOTORCYCLE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR MOTORCYCLE. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A BICYCLE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR BICYCLE. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A TRUCK, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR TRUCK. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A BUS, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR BUS. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A TRAM, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR TRAM. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A RAILWAY CAR, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR RAILWAY CAR. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A BOAT, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR BOAT. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A PLANE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR PLANE. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A HOT AIR BALLOON, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR HOT AIR BALLOON. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A GYROPLANE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR GYROPLANE. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A GLIDER, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR GLIDER. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A PARASAIL, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR PARASAIL. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A PARAJUMP, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR PARAJUMP. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A BASE JUMP, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR BASE JUMP. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A WING SUIT, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR WING SUIT. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A SPACE SUIT, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR SPACE SUIT. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A ROCKET, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR ROCKET. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A MISSILE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR MISSILE. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A SUBMARINE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR SUBMARINE. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A TANK, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR TANK. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A WARSHIP, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR WARSHIP. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A FIGHTER, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR FIGHTER. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A BOMBER, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR BOMBER. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A TRANSPORT, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR TRANSPORT. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A SUPPORT, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR SUPPORT. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A RECON, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR RECON. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A COMM, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR COMM. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A SIGINT, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR SIGINT. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CBRN, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CBRN. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A EW, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR EW. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A AS, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR AS. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A AT, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR AT. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A AM, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR AM. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A AN, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR AN. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A AW, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR AW. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A AC, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR AC. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A AD, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR AD. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A AE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR AE. 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IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A BY, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR BY. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A BZ, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR BZ. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CA, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CA. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CB, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CB. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CC, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CC. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CD, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CD. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CE. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CF, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CF. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CG, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CG. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CH, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CH. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CI, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CI. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CJ, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CJ. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CK, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CK. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CL, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CL. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CM, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CM. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CN, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CN. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CO, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CO. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CP, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CP. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CQ, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CQ. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CR, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CR. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CS, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CS. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CT, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CT. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CU, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CU. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CV, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CV. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CW, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CW. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CX, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CX. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CY, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CY. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A CZ, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR CZ. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A DA, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR DA. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A DB, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR DB. 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IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IH, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IH. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A II, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR II. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IJ, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IJ. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IK, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IK. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IL, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IL. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IM, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IM. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IN, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IN. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IO, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IO. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IP, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IP. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IQ, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IQ. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IR, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IR. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IS, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IS. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IT, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IT. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IU, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IU. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY DRIVING A IV, PLEASE TICK THE BOX FOR IV. 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Prince Charles has a wonderful sense of humour and great warmth of personality... on the other hand he did not look after Diana enough



The Duchess of York is strikingly direct and intelligent... but she is no beauty

Continued from Page 16
rushed to his bedside. It is all rather sad and pathetic and deeply embarrassing for the Queen surely? During this period Peter Townsend published his memoirs of their attachment, an act in the worst taste. Derek Hart said that she never did love him. One does feel rather sorry for her but she does so very little to help herself.

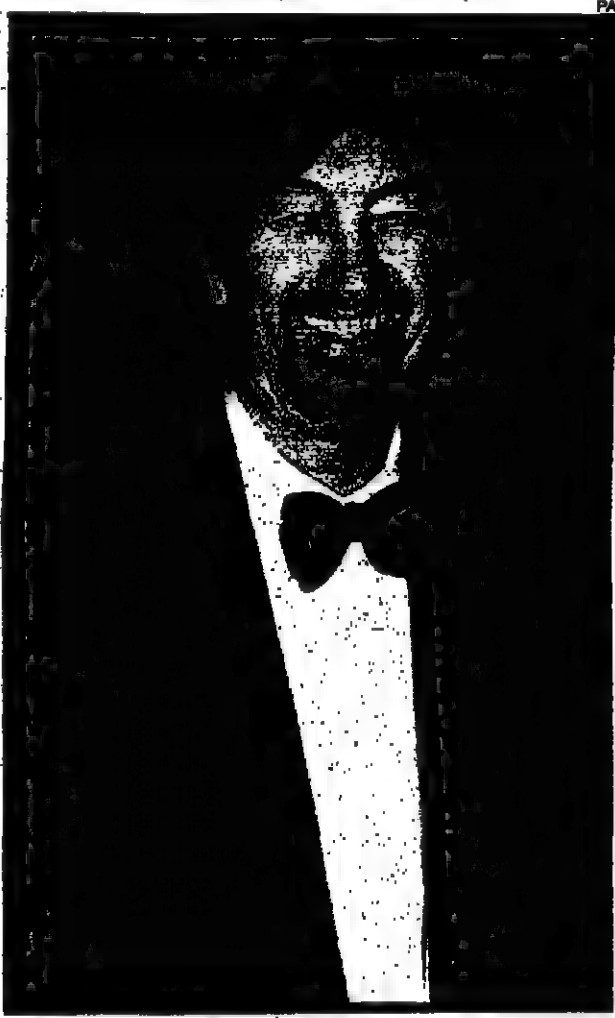
April 16-17, 1978
We arrived in our decrepit vehicle at Windsor Castle. It was a glorious spring day, the hedgerows had suddenly burst into green and the sky was cloudless.

A dinner I found myself talking non-stop to Prince Philip, who really looks remarkable for his age. He seemed in a way more muted and less aggressive than I last remember him, but just as opinionated, full of the woes of Britain, groaning about the evils of Capital Gains Tax, the stifling of patronage, and enunciating all the other reactionary attitudes one rather suspected.

At that moment the children surfaced. Prince Andrew, tallest and thinnest of the boys, is now seventeen and living up in his butch appearance and sensuous lips to his "Randy Andy" image, and David Linley, the duplicate of Tony Snowdon. He is as tiny as his parents and about the same age as Prince Andrew. When asked by the Prime Minister (James Callaghan) what he wanted to be, Princess Margaret replied, "A carpenter", to which she added, "Christ was a carpenter".

May 31, 1978
Poor HRH Margaret was carried off to hospital with hepatitis. What a tragedy it has all been and needlessly. And now the divorce with Snowdon is announced. How little people will understand the agonies which she has gone through as a practising Anglican to let the divorce happen. How silly but understandable to fall for Roddy and what an inevitable end. The loneliness of it all for her must be terrible.

November 28, 1979
Dinner with Gerald Ellison, Bishop of London, was in honour of the Kents. It was the first time that we had seen her for nearly a year. She looked so much better but older, with less hair, which in fact was an improvement on the inflated Sixties look which she had clung on to for far too long. Music was now her thing and she had been going to rehearsals with the Bach Choir. We enjoyed her account of Denis Thatcher asking her to arrange for him to meet the Duke of Edinburgh privately so that he could discuss how



Trevor Nunn was furious and a tirade followed... Arrogance knew no bounds

he should handle being married to a woman at the centre of affairs!

November 4, 1981
The day of the opening of *The Splendours of the Gonzagas*. The vast lead-up to this, above all its inauguration by the Prince and Princess of Wales, endowed the whole occasion with an air of high expectancy. The Princess looked sensational, her dress cut straight across revealing the by now famous shoulders, but with a triple choker of pearls fastened with a diamond clip around her neck in the manner of Queen Alexandra. She has a clear complexion and lustrous blue eyes. Tonight she seemed a large girl in a billowing white dress full-skirted to the ground with a broad blue ribbon at the waist. More petticoats, however, Julia observed, were called for. How can I describe her? Well, after the event, I would categorise her as Eliza Doolittle at the embassy ball. Beautiful, in a way like a young colt, immensely well-meaning, unformed, a typical product of an upper-class girls' school. But she has so much to learn, which she will, unless she gets bored with it and it all sour. At the moment she has not learned the royal technique of asking questions. Nervous certainly, so I placed myself next to her and, as I promised Edward Adeane, kept an eye on her the whole time. Her accent is really rather awful considering that she is an earl's daughter. Not an upper-class drawl at all but rather tuneless and, dare I say it, a bit

common, as though it were the fashion to learn to talk down. That is what I meant by Eliza at the ball.

He, in sharp contrast, is now immensely developed. Now thinner than ever, not only physically but his hair as well. But he is incredibly easy and so much more assured and mature. Dignity, yes, but with a wonderful sense of humour and a great warmth of personality (which she has too). On the other hand I did not think that he looked after her enough.

March 20-21, 1982
We were bidden by Queen Elizabeth once again to what I always refer to as the Royal Lodge Arts Festival. To describe Queen Elizabeth in her eighty-second year as remarkable would be an understatement. She seemed younger than ever. Arms extended in thrilled pleasure at our arrival. The face seemed remarkably unlined, the hair as ever with combs tucked into it, which she has to push back in from time to time, and the same upright stance. And on her feet the whole time it seemed. She positively darted around the room. Sitting for her was less a means of rest than an opportunity to get her guests on the side to have a good gossip. "Let's sit down," she typically said to me. And off we went into a corner of the room where we regaled each other with all the chat. Fred Ashton later told me that once he had been sitting on the loo when the bathroom door was flung open by Queen Elizabeth who announced to

the assembled tour: "And this is Sir Frederick's bathroom." Fortunately he had a dressing-gown on.

November 23, 1983
By far the most interesting event was the appearance of Trevor Nunn and his RSC acolytes before the Finance and General Purposes Committee at the Arts Council last Monday. I had always wondered whether a monster lurked beneath that 1960s hair, beard, and Chinese eyes. It does. Margherita Laiki set the ball rolling by asking in her usual coy way: "The aims of the company include the formation of a house style in acting, design, production. There is a moment," she chronicled on, "when a style becomes a cliché. I think it now has." Nunn was furious. A tirade followed. Anyone who dared make the slightest criticism was flattened. Rees-Mogg kept his head down and as this battle drew to its close after an hour, he raised it, after they'd gone, and said: "Lucky Mr Priestley [of the famous report] wasn't around to hear that." Arrogance had known no bounds.

May 24, 1984
Princess Michael of Kent came to the Prince's Trust sponsored concert at the V&A. She is always sharp and wildly indiscreet. What she said, however, didn't surprise me, which was the catastrophe of the Princess of Wales, doves of the household were leaving and then there was the terrible mother. Mrs Shand Kydd, who was a baleful influence. Poor Prince Charles, who had bought Highgrove to be near his former girlfriends. Nothing was happy. Diana was hard. There was no pulling together, no common objectives, and it was misery for him. How long can it last! And Diana has become a media queen which only makes it worse.

Prince Charles doesn't like me," she chorched on. "I'm regarded as the family's highest risk factor. In fact I'm devoted to him and it's not me who's the risk. The time bomb is Diana. Being rude to servants is the lowest thing you can do and she does it." She then listed off the members of the private entourage who had gone. No one knows this. The Prince is left increasingly isolated. The Queen is withdrawn. Not that the Kent family sounded that much united. The women that make up the Royal Family at the moment would make a fascinating study so disparate are they in looks, intellect and motivation.

March 18, 1986
I went to see the Duchess of York at Buckingham Palace. There she was in a small office with a secretary lady-in-waiting on the top floor in the old nursery suite. This had all arisen because she had heard from Bill Heseltine [The Queen's Private Secretary] that I was to do a television series on the royal gardens and she saw a book in it. So did I, so that was soon settled. She is strikingly refreshing, direct and intelligent, a huge bonus I would have thought. No beauty at all, but good Sloane. Street features with

large eyes. Her mission, she said, was to be youth and the Arts, especially in the north of England, but, she added, the invitations never came. I said that I would do what I could to help. I said that it was a shame that no member of the Royal Family had a house in the north, to which she replied that the Civil List wouldn't pay for it. She was, she announced, York Enterprises and there is no doubt that they must make a living and she will be the one to do it. That was how the royal gardens came up because, pre-marriage, she had been with Burton Publishing and the *Antiques Collector* had asked her to do a book on the royal gardens and then I popped up. The lady-in-waiting looked

up and asked how Muff [our cat] was, which was sweet. "Who's Muff?" the Duchess said, and so I told her. "Is he a big'un?" she said. "Yes, as big as this table," I indicated. We all roared.

August 7, 1987
We lunched with Princess Michael at Nether Lyplatt, just outside Stroud. As there were only two guest bedrooms it certainly cannot be called large. Apart from a factotum who had married the nanny there was no sign of living-in staff, and when someone grand comes the royal footmen are shipped down from London. For such an impoverished princess much money must have been lavished on the decoration of the house.

Princess Michael never, but never stops talking. We were submitted to a never-ending flow, invariably leading back to the fact that they were not on the Civil List and cars and helicopters were not provided so they couldn't accept invitations outside London. How the Prince had never received an honour. I cannot imagine her making conversation with the locals or going to the Women's Institute.

Extracted from *The Roy Strong Diaries 1967-1987*, by Roy Strong, to be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson on May 12, £20.

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TOMORROW

'It was difficult to get to bed before I am'
Roy Strong partying through the Sixties

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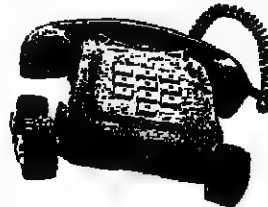
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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART
From *Habitat* to the British Museum: *Collected* turns London snapper-happy
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ THEATRE
Callas is the subject of Terence McNally's new play, *Master Class*, at the Queen's Theatre
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ POP
Killing us softly: the Fugees slide gracefully into Wembley Arena
GIG: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ DANCE
Dutch treat: Jiri Kylian brings the young dancers of NDT2 to the Peacock Theatre
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

George Steiner wrote a massively armoured article recently on American culture in which, as I understand it, he said that its greatest 20th-century claim was as receiver and conservator of European goods and European minds past and present. Clearly he found opponents and his argument has many holes in it. But on a brief visit to New York last week I happened by chance to go to four places in the space of about 48 hours which offer some sort of anecdotal confirmation and affirmation of the Steiner thesis.

Wagner was on at the Metropolitan Opera House; Ibsen starred on Broadway; the Nasher collection of 20th-century sculpture — filled the Guggenheim; and the Frick Museum, one of the greatest private collections in the world, has, I think, not one American artist on its walls.

This is not to denigrate what is happening because all four visits were exhilarating, but, in conjunction with Steiner's essay, it provides one way of looking at the current American experience.

Das Rheingold and *Die Walküre* were the two exceptional productions I saw in the Met's Ring cycle. I have hesitated on the brink of Wagnerianism for some time, but this production plunged me into the wonder of the man and his work.

For me one of the great strengths of the production was its traditional look. The Rhine was made to look like the Rhine. Valhalla was monumental at the back of the stage, both ancient and, in its crush of towers on a rock, clearly echoing Manhattan, whose massive resources made this as big a spectacle as I have seen in any musical theatre. The tricks — the road and the Snake for instance — were pulled off with Barnum and Bailey audacity. The singing, in my view, was excellent throughout, although Wagner buffs would probably give the palm to Haitink's conducting at the Royal Opera House.

The Nibelungs were dwarfish, rat-scurrying, fathom-five creatures. The gods came out of simple. The gods came out of ancient storybooks. In short, in the New World renewed life was given to one of the Old World's greatest masterpieces. It is a massive hit and goes a little way to underlining Steiner's point.

Across Central Park at the Guggenheim, in which a pile of raincoats would look stylish such is the magnificence of the place itself, two great American benefactors, one of whom is still alive, showed off a modest percentage of their colossal collections. It made a fine history of 20th-century sculpture and most of it, in my view all that was best, was European —

The city where Europe still rules America

Thomas More and Thomas Cromwell, Corot's *The Lake*, Gainsborough's *St James's Park*, the two Titians. Perhaps Frick was the great precursor.

Finally, there was *A Doll's House*, one of many British productions in New York. In a context from which Arthur Miller and David Mamet flee to London: put on their new plays, Theafla Holt has taken one of Europe's masters and put it up beside the musicals.

This is not meant to be negative about America, as sometimes I have been. The sense I had in those places was one of privilege and enormous pleasure. And of course, the American contribution to the 20th-century arts — film, music (jazz-roots) and television — as well as its unarguable record in literature, makes a big hole in Steiner's argument. Nevertheless

at a time when Europe is edgy about its identity, it is not a bad moment to listen to our most polemical polymath who might be on the scent of something.

If a great city is to be distinguished by one thing only, then the best thing about London is its parks. But Central Park in New York is perhaps the most vivid and extraordinary in the world. Simply to exist at all on a crowded island so greedy for land is a miracle. But at the weekend it does not so much exist as jump. If someone were to take off an invisible dome above the park they would see in it activity fit to rival the most crowded beehive.

In the space of about 500 yards, the other Sunday I was overtaken by rollerbladers, serious Kenyan marathon runners, other marathon runners of all shapes, sizes



and speeds, power walkers, cyclists, skaters pushing pushchairs and leading panting dogs, everyone on a staircase of intense self-improvement. The fact that no one bumps into each other in such a crowded space is a wonder of human organisation.

Add to that the Tai Chi classes, the Bulgarian folk group, the children playing baseball, the jugglers and, fringing the park, the craft stalls, musicians, college jazz bands and threading through the park, elegant ladies from the Upper East Side taking their daily stroll, and you have a portrait of America at its zesty, exuberant, heterogeneous best. After all that activity and vivacity, the Metropolitan Museum, which backs into the park, seems not only a palace but also a refuge.

Between them, though, the Metropolitan Museum, with its magnificent current exhibition on Byzantium for instance, and Central Park, with its weekly human spectacular, reinforce the best dreams of America.

Thomas More and Thomas Cromwell, Corot's *The Lake*, Gainsborough's *St James's Park*, the two Titians. Perhaps Frick was the great precursor.

Finally, there was *A Doll's House*, one of many British productions in New York. In a context from which Arthur Miller and David Mamet flee to London: put on their new plays, Theafla Holt has taken one of Europe's masters and put it up beside the musicals.

This is not meant to be negative about America, as sometimes I have been. The sense I had in those places was one of privilege and enormous pleasure. And of course, the American contribution to the 20th-century arts — film, music (jazz-roots) and television — as well as its unarguable record in literature, makes a big hole in Steiner's argument. Nevertheless

Lust in the eye of the beholder

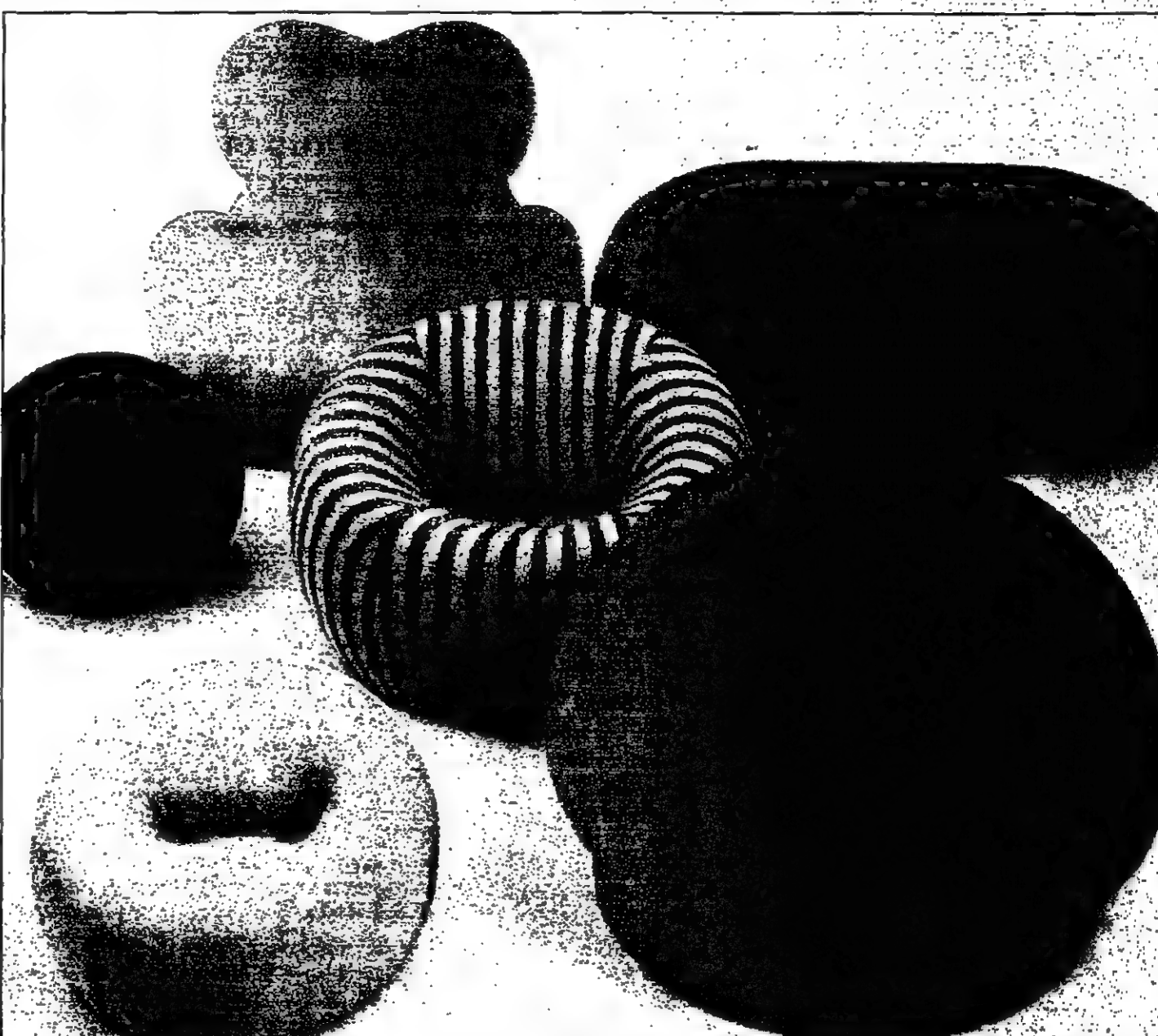
VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor
stays cool at the Design Museum's chronology of erotic obsession

From Decadence to decadence, Fin de Siècle to fin de siècle: that appears to be the trajectory described by the Design Museum's new show for the summer, *The Power of Erotic Design*. Though fashion seems to go in circles, however, it never comes back to exactly the same place, and a century which begins and ends erotically obsessed is bound to have exchanged its old obsessions for new ones somewhere along the way.

Also its manner of expressing them. In olden days a glimpse of stocking...? Yes, to an extent. But if it comes to flagrant sexuality, the raunchier corners of the Internet offer little advance on Aubrey Beardsley and Franz von Byrons. The main difference is that in their day such perverse masterpieces as Beardsley's *Lystrata* (1896) and von Byrons's *Pictures from the Boudoir of Madame CC* (1911) were published in expensive limited editions and distributed under plain cover, whereas now eroticism runs riot over the billboards of the world. Watered down, no doubt, and rendered glossy, respectable and comfortable to live with, but permeating more than ever before. In the 1990s it constituted a special treat, a special shock, something apart from the everyday business of life. Now it is the primal matter in which we float.

To an extent this is Freud's fault. At the time of his first year in England his main claim to column inches was the matter of his dog's quarantine. But his view that everything in life was ultimately based on and derived from the sexual impulse had its attractions, even to the superficially staid British. Whether or not it was true, it certainly grabbed the imagination. And so, in the exhibition, we move from Freud and his collection of phallic and otherwise erotic oddments from antiquity to the Surrealists. They embraced Freud's view of dreams and the unconscious because it was creatively useful to them. What else do such famous pieces of design as Dali's "Mae West Lips" sofa or Man Ray's *Cadeau/Audace*, the iron with a row of spikes protruding from the flat bottom, do except shock us into free association?

And if the associations are sexual, it just proves that Freud was right. It is not hard to carry that line of thought one step further. If the images can mobilise eroticism, then the eroticism can mobilise all sorts of other instincts. Like the desire to drive the right sexy car, or drink the right sexy drink. For this, though, it is desirable that the eroticism be not too overt. We do not want the potential punter to be so turned on by the model draped provocatively across the bonnet that he fails to notice the car. What



If Gaetano Pesce's 1969 UP series of beanbags in assorted brilliant colours subverted anything it was the home rather than the office

we require is for an atmosphere of non-specific eroticism to be created around the sales item in question, so that it takes on sexiness without the audience being conscious of this.

It is noticeable that as the century progresses, erotic content gradually seeps in, becomes a flood, and then is tamed and domesticated. If it is not, then we betide the designer trying to use it. Sex red in tooth and claw is not comfortable, and when Mario Bellini offered his *Teneride Office Chair* in 1970, with

its shameless evocation of unmentionable orifices, its flaring red, its rubbery, spongy texture, nobody wanted to buy it, lest it spread riot and ruin in any environment it helped to form. On the other hand, Gaetano Pesce's UP series of marbled beanbags in assorted brilliant colours, sucking at general associations, worked well, and at least was subverting, if anything, the home rather than the office.

Of course scandal plays some part, but the scandal-rousers, like Allen Jones's trussed ladies holding

up glass tables or collecting hats and coats, are generally one-offs and are intended to remain so. The show ends with computer screens flickering and Anthony Beeke's "porno" posters for classic theatre productions in Amsterdam vaguely perceptible behind black gauze. (These latter, apparently, had only moderate success because people did not like to pause in front of them long enough to take in the necessary information.) Uncensored eroticism has become a language in modern design. But just because it

whispers of eroticism, it is not itself necessarily erotic in effect. From Decadence to decadence indeed. Felicien Rops was interested in sex for itself. Elsa Schiaparelli was interested in selling clothes and perfume through sex.

Today all we are left with is form without content. Come back, Mae West; all is forgiven.

● *The Power of Erotic Design* is at the Design Museum, Strand, Thames, SE1 0JF-403 6939, Mon-Fri 11.30am-6pm, Sat-Sun noon-6pm, until Oct 12. Admission £5, concs £3.75

In the mood to party

DESPITE the death of their original keyboard player, Rob Collins, in a car crash last July, the Charlatans are in heroically confident form. Like the Manic Street Preachers, who bounced back to huge critical and commercial acclaim after the disappearance of their guitarist Richey Edwards, this Cheshire quintet seem to have turned personal tragedy into public triumph.

Their fifth album, *Tellin' Stories*, which features extensive contributions from Collins, rocketed to No 1 last week. It was therefore no surprise to find the group in ebullient mood at Gloucester Lei-

The Charlatans Gloucester

sure Centre on Friday. With 2,000 sweat-soaked revellers roaring along in true football crowd style, the celebratory ambience was reminiscent of a Stone Roses show during their brief late Eighties heyday, or perhaps an Oasis show today. But while singer Tim Burgess clearly shares a swaggering prize-fighter cool with the Gallaghers, his band have patented a more fluid and rhythmic style informed as much by gospel, soul and modern dance music as by classic British rock.

The Gloucester show began with two of the new album's highlights, *With No Shoes and North Country Boy*, both deafeningly loud and rapturously received. The set climaxed with beefed-up versions of older compositions such as *Weirdo* and *Can't Get Out of Bed*.

Except during one or two overextended and mildly psychedelic jams, the euphoric mood never flagged. Although neither melodically nor lyrically subtle, the Charlatans proved they have a well-matched arsenal of robust party anthems, and the boundless energy to deliver them in style.

STEPHEN DALTON

OPERA: Paul Daniel bids farewell to Leeds with a new Wagner production for Opera North; plus a return to past glories in Paris

Taking leave the hard way

There are easier operas to stage than *Tannhäuser*, but under Paul Daniel's musical directorship, Opera North has never shirked a challenge, so this was perhaps a fitting way to mark the end of his regime — especially with the iconoclastic David Fielding making his directorial debut for the company.

Fielding's sets, designed by himself, use only the front part of the Grand Theatre stage. The enhanced projection gives the chorus more impact and does wonders for diction — every word of Rodney Blumer's adroit, sensitive translation was clearly audible — so the effect is claustro-

phobic. The opening scene in the Venusberg is very much School of Alen. One would not expect a Fielding Venusberg to feature Wagner's prescribed grotto with lake, cascades and tropical vegetation, even if the Opera North budget could run to it.

But what we had instead — a bordello illuminated by naked (red) lightbulbs, and furnished with armchairs in which masked clients cavort with unclad manikins — was so wittily "town brand" that it verged on self-parody. Unfortunately, the entire first act was also feebly acted and directed and it was not until the contest in the Wartburg

Tannhäuser Leeds

that the intelligent thinking behind the staging emerged. Rigid verticals (the backdrop grid, swords, clenched fist salutes) symbolising the inherent violence of this repressive society contrast with less threatening diagonals (a suspended Madonna statue, a cryptic blue pointer, even the ladies waving their peace lilies like gladioli). It is a nice touch to make the bordello clients identifiable with the easily shocked knights: sexual puritanism and hypocrisy invariably go hand in hand.

There are some stunning stage pictures (lighting designer Peter Mumford) — even the return of the lightbulbs for Walther's Hymn to the Evening Star is atmospherically handled — and the blue pointer is transformed into a giant conical cylinder (symbolic of divine grace) that defends diagonally in a powerful final tableau.

One of the reasons *Tannhäuser* is difficult to stage is that the title role is well nigh unsingable. From the time Joseph Tichatschek



BARRY MILLINGTON

Jeffrey Lawton as Tannhäuser in Opera North's staging

Tartan tenor

La Dame blanche Paris Opéra Comique

Deprived of Bolle's masterpieces for more than 70 years, the audience at the Opéra Comique has welcomed *La Dame blanche* back like a much-loved and long-lost member of the family. Even though Bizet had turned opera-comique in a quite different direction with *Carmen*, it remained firmly in the repertoire until well after the turn of the century.

The present, very welcome revival celebrates a score of complete professional competence and a composer with his own appealingly tuneful style. Mark Minkowski clearly understands his *Dame blanche* and, given a more consistently gifted cast, could surely have made an even greater success of it. The stage director, Jean-Louis Fichon, is not so sure in his approach but, after an all but disastrous first act, makes something respectable of it.

What saves the production, is not so much the outrageously camp Highland costumes of Frédéric Pineau, or even the gothic sets of Alexandre Heyraud, but a quite extraordinary performance from the American tenor Gregory Kunde in the role of Georges Brown, the officer who returns

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Places at the nation's top table

Peter Riddell assesses the new Cabinet and those in the wings

Tony Blair's Government has a provisional, tentative look — as if on probation until the first reshuffle in the summer or autumn of 1998. Like most Prime Ministers who have taken office after winning an election, Tony Blair has played safe at first. That is perhaps inevitable in the most inexperienced Government since Ramsay MacDonald's first ministry in 1924. He has given old stalwarts a chance to prove that they can perform at the top level and promising middle-rankers the opportunity to make the case for early promotion. The new Government is strong at the top, patchy in the lower ranks of the Cabinet, and promising at the level of minister of state. I would be surprised if three or four of the new Cabinet were still in place in 18 months' time.

Given the size of the Labour majority and Mr Blair's unquestioned personal authority, his caution in not having the best people in place from the start can be seen as a missed opportunity. He has avoided a party row by honouring Labour rules by putting as many as possible of the elected Shadow Cabinet into his first Cabinet and giving senior

Blair has been constrained in his choices: is it a lost chance?

posts to those who could not be fitted within the legal maximum of 22 paid Cabinet posts. He has behaved like all his predecessors. Even Margaret Thatcher records in his memoirs how she faced real constraints in forming her first administration. In May 1979, she felt obliged by the balance of party opinion and seniority to put many traditional One Nation Tories into her first Cabinet, leaving her ideological allies, such as Norman Tebbit, Nigel Lawson and Cecil Parkinson, in junior and middle-ranking positions. But these allies were all in key Cabinet posts within 2½ years of the election, when several old "wets" had been dropped. Harold Wilson followed a similar pattern in honouring old obligations, though he told Roy Jenkins and Anthony Crosland, who were given key middle-rank posts, that they would soon be in the Cabinet, as they both were within 15 months.

Of course, all Cabinets have to be a balance of political opinions, experience and ability. Clement Attlee, Mr Blair's declared model as Labour leader, once said: "The thing you have to remember in picking a Cabinet is that although you want some brilliant people, you also want some ordinary fellows who can tell you how other ordinary fellows are feeling. Nothing so dangerous as a ministry of all the talents." Attlee was, however, ruthless in getting rid of failures, sacking several within 15 months of coming to office.

The talents of the Blair team as ministers are, by definition, unknown and untested. The key to the success of the Government will be Mr Blair's relations with Gordon Brown, and the performances of Robin Cook and John Prescott. But more generally, the question will be which ministers have the potential to grow in office, as, for example, Jack Straw and David Blunkett have in opposition.

With Peter Lilley as their likely new leader, the Conservatives must rebuild as they did in the 1940s

Finding the Tory road to recovery

The decisive move was the repudiation of the Baldwin-Chamberlain Conservatism of the 1930s.

The Conservative revival was a team effort. Lord Woolton, a successful businessman, who had been Minister of Food during the war, became Chairman of the party and reorganised Central Office on business lines. He built an election-fighting machine which by 1950 was much more modern than the Labour party's. He managed to attract large numbers to join the Young Conservatives. In the constituency associations, new young agents were appointed, many of them ex-officers, the older people who had been running the associations were eased out. The candidates were forbidden to pay more than token sums to their associations, making it possible for younger and poorer candidates to stand. The Conservatives became much more meritocratic.

Rab Butler was put in charge of the Conservative research department, which was left largely independent of Central Office; he oversaw the party's internal policy debate, which was organised in the constituencies through the Conservative Political Centre. Anthony Eden was the heir apparent and Shadow Foreign Secretary. He had the qualities of moderation and personal charm which have made Tony Blair so attractive a party leader. Eden was a popular campaigner, and increased the Conservative majority in the 1955 election.

when he campaigned as Prime Minister. Before Suez eclipsed his reputation, he was a major asset to his party. So was Harold Macmillan, who had been defeated in 1945, but soon came back into the House of Commons at a by-election.

Teamwork, reorganisation, new ideas and policy formation, encouraging youth, effective opposition in Parliament, the total modernisation of the party and the failures of the Labour Government were the factors which brought the Tories back inside

back, but not in time for the leadership contest. Chris Patten will still be governing Hong Kong until June 30, and has ruled out his candidature. As he is the only major British politician with substantial experience of the new global economy of Asia, he must be brought back into politics if possible. It is a pity that Governor Patten is not available, as he might be the leader most likely to beat Tony Blair in 2002. Michael Heseltine has withdrawn from the contest on the grounds of health; otherwise he might have provided the elder statesman's leadership, building a team, which Churchill gave after 1945.

The remaining possible candidates are William Hague, Stephen Dorrell, Gillian Shephard and Michael Howard, who for one reason or another seem unlikely to do the job, and three who represent a serious choice for the party: Kenneth Clarke, John Redwood and Peter Lilley. William Hague is still too young and would find it hard to build and lead a team far more experienced than himself. He also far seems over-professional for so young a man, and the party needs original ideas. Stephen Dorrell had a poor election campaign; like Gillian Shephard, he seems to have reached his political ceiling. Michael Howard turns the "public off" a popular without popularity.

There is a case for Kenneth Clarke. He is a vigorous multi-purpose

politician, strong in debate and effective in opposition. He has great experience, he is well-liked, and he was a very competent Chancellor, though not a reformer. Unfortunately, he is far too Europhile for the present balance of the party, inside or outside Parliament. The European issues may change, but he is a man of Maastricht, and Maastricht is as damaging to a Tory's reputation in 1997 as Munich was in 1945.

John Redwood was an excellent mind, and as he showed by standing against John Major, and even more excellent courage. However, he is not a natural communicator: in the scale of the smile and soundbite skills, he is at the opposite end to Tony Blair, and it is Tony Blair the Tories will have to beat. He will also be attacked for having opposed the Major regime, however right he was in saying "No change, no chance".

It may be easier to define the team than to identify the leader. The core team ought to include all the really able people, Patten, Portillo and Riddell, who are at present outside Parliament. Clarke, Lilley and Hague from the old front bench, Redwood from the internal opposition. These seven are more than a match, in individual terms, for Labour's top team. Peter Lilley was the best departmental minister of the last Parliament, he has the best grip on policy, and is a good colleague. Like Clement Attlee, he is a modest man, but that did not stop Attlee being a successful Prime Minister. Lilley's position on the thinking Right is close to the party's centre of gravity. By a strange chapter of accidents, including the absence of Portillo and Patten, the Euro-zel of Clarke and the sad illness of Heseltine, Peter Lilley may be the only available leader who has both the principles — which are more important than some people think — and the brains and the ability to hold the party together.

Along the Clinton-Blair axis

At last, the President has a little brother, writes Sidney Blumenthal

The parallel political lives that Tony Blair and Bill Clinton have led throughout this decade have finally intersected at the point of power. They are about to create a new transatlantic relationship, recasting the alliance between the United States and Britain. If the "special relationship" was between Cold War partners, then this tie is so far unnamed, because it exists in a quite new era.

For the first time, Clinton will be working with a world leader with the same perspectives on social policy, who has emerged as a consequence of similar political dynamics and who, remarkably, is even younger. Blair is the only prominent leader younger than Clinton. At last Clinton will have a partner to whom he is an elder statesman. Blair is the younger brother Clinton has been yearning for.

The making of the President has also been the making of the Prime Minister. Their rises are more than accidentally alike, having happened in nations where the political cycles since the late 19th century have been roughly similar. Clinton and Blair have each led progressive parties out of the political wilderness by reshaping them and locating a new centre. They did not do so in isolation. Since 1992, their campaigns have crossed, without the Cold War to hold it together, conservatism spun off into factions. Lacking a strategy, Bush's team imported people from Tony Clinton's office to teach them how they had won earlier that year against the odds. Clinton's campaign responded by recruiting the Labour Party consultant Philip Gould, who took up residence in the Little Rock war-room. John Major Government's tried to help Bush by searching Home Office files for damaging information on young Clinton, the anti-Vietnam Rhodes scholar. Thus the Conservative-Republican grand alliance begun by Margaret Thatcher



inestimable hidden assets was the Conservative Party's blithe ignorance of the lessons of Clinton.

The Clinton-Blair relationship began in the American campaign of 1992. George Bush presumed that his victory in the Gulf War, which had raised his popularity to dizzying heights, would guarantee his reelection. But the Gulf War was not a solid foundation for the politics of the 1990s. Without the Cold War to hold it together, conservatism spun off into factions. Lacking a strategy, Bush's team imported people from Tony Clinton's office to teach them how they had won earlier that year against the odds. Clinton's campaign responded by recruiting the Labour Party consultant Philip Gould, who took up residence in the Little Rock war-room. John Major Government's tried to help Bush by searching Home Office files for damaging information on young Clinton, the anti-Vietnam Rhodes scholar. Thus the Conservative-Republican grand alliance begun by Margaret Thatcher

and Ronald Reagan concluded in a negative campaigning plot.

From the Democrat war-room sprang Millbank. All ambivalence about applying the techniques of modern campaigning was erased. The co-ordination of strategy, media and polls was no longer in dispute. Even the physical layout of the war-room — one big open space — was imported. The rabbit warren of Walworth Road, the old Labour HQ, suddenly appeared an anachronism. The Conservatives' behaviour during the 1992 campaign meant that Major's relationship with Clinton began on an awkward footing. Clinton made a disciplined effort to act as though the underhanded Tory activities had not taken place. He even held a birthday celebration for Major. There was never anything abrasive in the personal exchanges between the two leaders; everything was proper. But most of the Clintonites despised Major and wished to see him fall. They were eager to help Labour whenever they could.

Blair became Labour leader in July 1994. In August, Clinton's national healthcare initiative failed. Three months later, having been dispirited and fragmented under Clinton, the Democratic Party lost control of Congress for the first time in 42 years. Clinton had had to operate under a system of divided government, negotiating with congressional barons. His ability to discipline his party was necessarily limited. The lesson for Blair was to accelerate the reform of the party: to move rapidly to change Clause IV and to institute the principle of one-member, one vote.

The rise of the right-wing mystagogue Newt Gingrich as Speaker of the House also provided a lesson for the Tories. But it was a mis-lesson. He believed that the Republican congressional victory was proof that they were right all along, that they need not change, that the currents of world politics were still flowing their way. John Redwood made pilgrimages to see Gingrich, and Gingrich came to London to visit Michael Portillo.

But following the Republican hubris that resulted in the shutdown of the government, Clinton recovered by seizing the Centre. In the spring of 1996, Blair arrived in Washington to see him. Bob Dole veered to the right, and when that tack failed ran a relentlessly negative campaign. Clinton, in the meantime, always coupled his attacks with positive programmatic statements. His theme was unaltered: he would lead the nation across "the bridge to the 21st century". One signal, Labour learnt.

The Tories, however, had learnt nothing. Major opened his campaign with a billboard depicting Blair with satanic eyes. But the negative campaign backfired: voters thought it arrogant. Confronting public rejection, Seatch's only answer was to recommend a more vigorous negative assault. Labour's polls and focus groups showed that this gave a big boost to Blair's positive approach.

As soon as Blair was indisputably going to be Prime Minister, at 4am on May 2, Clinton telephoned him. Now their relationship begins in earnest. They are of the same generation, both vigorous mavericks married to professional women (in fact all four of them are lawyers). Blair's centre-left, communitarian politics, like the Clintons' is connected to his religion: While Blair speaks of "one nation", Clinton speaks of "one America". Yet both are internationalists. Their existence is mutually reinforcing. Their politics can only be understood as an international phenomenon responsive to new realities.

The renewal of the transatlantic relationship is already apparent in Clinton's call for fresh negotiations on Ireland. Blair, for his part, may have more room to guide Britain into its traditional balancing role. Together they may promote international and social policies related to economic growth at the forthcoming G7 summit. The new Anglo-American model may soon appear different not only from the continental one, but from the *disaster-faire* of the Conservatives too. With the demise of John Major, the last remnant of the "special relationship" of old is gone. With Blair and Clinton together on the world stage, will there be an vital international Centre?

Sidney Blumenthal is a staff writer on The New Yorker.

Gazumped

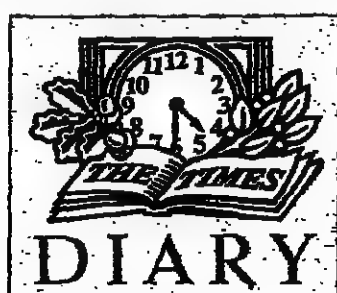
YESTERDAY, as Neil Hamilton denied that he and his terrifying wife face ruin and will have to sell their £300,000 house in Mether Alderley, the man who beat him, Martin Bell, was busy setting up home in Cheshire.



Bell, who claims to have less than £6,000 in savings, has chosen to rent a two-up, two-down terraced cottage in Great Budworth, near Northwich. The cottage is close to the C. George & Dragon and within sight of the old stocks, which might come in handy in Bell's fight against corruption.

"I managed to rent it within half-an-hour of leaving the constituency on Saturday afternoon," said the ex-war correspondent. "During the campaign we held meetings in different homes, and at Great Budworth I discovered that the house next door was for rent."

Bell's first public duty at the weekend was to attend Knutsford's May Day celebrations, where he came face to face with Hamilton and his wife Christine. Few words were exchanged between the two men, although Hamilton threatened later that, like Arnold Schwarzenegger in the Terminator films, he would be back. "I have no plans to quit public life for ever — certainly not."



Over in Israel, the hugely popular Hebrew newspaper *Ma'ariv* took an unorthodox view of the British election result with its front page headline: "New British Government: five women; blind minister; declared homosexual."

Gone fishing

SUGGESTIONS that John Major might soon be heading for the Lords should be shelved immediately. He has no desire to leave the House of Commons or, indeed, give up his Huntingdon constituency, where he will, inevitably, be spending more time.

Immediate plans include a holi-

day in Portugal with Norma, who became emotional on Friday as the scale of the Tory defeat struck home. In the longer term, the former PM has grand designs: he wants to buy more land and expand the grounds around his Great Stukeley home so as to build another pond for his goldfish.

With talk of Gordon Brown moving into the flat above Number 10 and the possibility of an announcement of his engagement to Sarah Macaulay, a public relations consultant, concern is being expressed for Humphrey, now a senior cat-izen, will anyway have to contend with David Blunkett's guide-dog, Lucy. If Sarah's bruising cat Felix moves in as well, he'll simply have to hand over the flea-collar and move his basket elsewhere.

Black marks

POLITICS at Westminster School took an ugly turn recently with the formation of a neo-Nazi movement in the sixth form. The outfit was banned from taking part in the school's mock elections.

Boys at the £10,000-a-year establishment founded their *British Socialist Party* with a manifesto pledge to expel all ethnic minorities from the school, to which many a Nigerian bigwig and foreign president has sent his child for essential grounding. There was also a plan to raise the age of consent among homosexuals to 30.

"This is not the kind of thing we sanction here. As soon as we heard of it, we put an end to it," said one



member of staff. "But things are now back on an even keel."

Tiggy winkle

WHILE politicians were out canvassing before the election, Tiggy Legge-Bourke, the tweed-clad former assistant to the Prince of Wales, was doing some leafleting of her own.

She has been sending friends and relatives her new calling card, which explains her plans for her own business venture as a sort of upmarket secretary-bum-bux.

For those too busy to arrange their own affairs, the Alice-banded Tiggy says she can step in: hotels, flights and limousines can be booked, appointments can be arranged, and typewritten scripts can be faxed. "It's the sort of thing an 18-year-old would do when leaving 'finishing college,'" comments one old sour-puss. Diana, Princess of Wales, will be availing herself of the service.

Not to be outdone by Tony Blair, who was dubbed "Galaxy man" after becoming the first Prime Minister to use a Ford Galaxy to



Tiggy: factotum

ferry his children about the 24-year-old Labour MP for Shipley is "Capri man". After bringing the Conservatives' Sir Marcus Fox, Christopher Lesley led a motorcade round his constituency in his B-reg Ford Capri, ferrying all — just the sort of car at which Sir Marcus would have wrinkled his grand nose.



BLAIR THE CAUTIOUS

The Prime Minister puts his old team on new trial

Tony Blair had two choices in forming his first Government. He could have capitalised upon his hugely powerful position to form an administration in his own image, tearing up the convention that he appoints his first Cabinet from members of the shadow cabinet. Or he could go by the book, ensuring that all factions of the party were included.

He has chosen the latter. This will please those MPs who felt that they deserved to be rewarded for the discipline that they exhibited in the course of the election campaign. Had he packed the Cabinet with his allies, it might have looked audacious and impressive, but the resentment of the excluded would have come back to haunt him in more difficult times. By abiding by the rules now, he will find it easier in future to discipline MPs who fail to abide by the rules of the party's new code of conduct.

There is a danger of his losing valuable time by allowing mediocre colleagues to be secretaries of state. But he has warned his ministers that they are on probation. Any who do not live up to their job stand to lose their position next year — that may include some who share the Prime Minister's modernising views but are not effective. If, by the autumn of 1998, Mr Blair's Cabinet looks quite different, he will be able to say that his colleagues are there on merit.

Within the constraints that he has accepted, Mr Blair has made some good appointments. Donald Dewar is a sensible choice for Scottish Secretary, combining wisdom, common sense and an understanding of the Commons. He will be popular with the Scots but also, we hope, realistic about the dangers of steamrolling devolution legislation through Parliament. His predecessor, George Robertson, need hardly see Defence as a demotion. His experience of foreign affairs will stand him in good stead there.

The choice of Frank Field to be Harriet Harman's deputy at Social Security, with a brief to think long-term and to renovate, may turn out to be the most important of all. Mr Blair seems to recognise as much: al-

though Mr Field will be outside the Cabinet, his appointment was announced on Saturday alongside those of his seniors. Mr Field has bold and imaginative ideas on welfare reform which, if put into practice, could make this administration truly radical in one of the most challenging policy areas to face an incoming government.

Chris Smith has naturally joined National Heritage, where he did a good job on the Labour front bench. But the oddest appointment is Frank Dobson at Health. Mr Dobson is not exactly left-wing, but he is certainly old Labour. Of all Labour's major policies, those on health are the weakest. Perhaps Mr Blair expects Mr Dobson to fail, and knows that he can replace him with the modernising Tessa Jowell at the next reshuffle.

Mr Blair has not yet weaned himself off his dependence upon Peter Mandelson, who becomes Minister without Portfolio, jostling with David Clark and Derek Foster in the Cabinet Office next door to Number 10. It will be a sign of the Prime Minister's growing confidence and maturity when he risks giving Mr Mandelson a proper job outside Downing Street.

The middle-ranking appointments are more overtly Blairite. Doug Henderson, the Minister for Europe, is a better choice than either his shadow predecessor, the Euro-enthusiast Joyce Quin, or the mooted alternative, Sir David Simon, chairman of BP. Mr Henderson is a tough negotiator, with no strong views on Europe, content to take the line determined by Messrs Cook and Blair.

It makes sense to have Geoffrey Robinson, a rare Labour MP with extensive business experience, in charge of the private finance initiative. Helen Liddell, the minister of state at the Treasury, has made a smooth transition from John Smith to Mr Blair. Other modernisers, whose portfolios have not yet been allocated, include Ms Jowell, Stephen Byers, Henry McLeish and Alan Milburn. Cabinet ministers such as Mr Dobson and Mr Clark should beware — these bright young things form the Cabinet-in-waiting.

END GAME IN AFRICA

Zaire's agony shows little sign of ending yet

On a ship off the African coast, Nelson Mandela, the South African president, yesterday failed to write out of Zaire's dictator a firm promise that he will leave office soon. Mr Mobutu insisted that he will hand over only to an elected president, and agreed to new talks in ten days. By then, it will probably be too late. Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, whose forces now control three-quarters of the country, has issued an ultimatum: unless the president surrenders office unconditionally, the rebel army now only 30 miles from Kinshasa, would sweep into the capital and eliminate Mr Mobutu's remaining supporters.

The protracted and at times farcical attempt to get the two warring leaders aboard is in order to map out an orderly exit for the wily leader who has brought his once wealthy country to the verge of collapse. Mr Kabila could easily take Kinshasa. But the risk of a bloodbath is enormous, and Mr Mobutu, a duplicitous and stubborn man, is ready to take his country down with him unless he is guaranteed a dignified departure.

Meanwhile in the east, thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees, weak, emaciated and many with appalling injuries, are streaming back to camps while aid workers carry out a wrenching selection of those to be taken out first on the airlift to safety and shelter. Their rescue from the jungle where they fled in terror from advancing Tutsi troops has been made possible only by the world outcry at their sudden disappearance. Mr Kabila has given the UN less than 60 days to find and save the Hutus. His troops have orders not to hinder the rescue operation. But there is no doubt that these victims of war have been intentionally driven to the brink of death. Mr Kabila has much to answer for.

The Zairean civil war has become inextricably mixed up with the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide and mass exodus. Many of the refugees are seen by local people as fugitives, led by criminals responsible for the worst atrocities in Rwanda. Those who have suffered the deaths of kinsmen in the massacres of 1994 have little compassion for Hutus fed and sustained in camps by international charity. Aid workers attempting to rescue the exhausted women and children are confronted with the brutal fact that they are seen as the expendable relatives of men whom most Tutsis in eastern Zaire would like to see dead.

This explains, but does not excuse, the delay in repatriating the refugees. The task has been further complicated by the civil war in Zaire. The sooner it is over, the sooner the refugees can be moved out of the country. That is one reason for the urgent intervention of the UN, the United States and President Mandela, who is showing himself a true statesman of Africa in undertaking this thankless task.

Mr Mobutu has now told the Americans and Mr Mandela that he will go. Now the important thing is to get him out of power — and preferably out of Zaire — as quickly as possible. When Mr Kabila takes over he will find it hard to impose his rule on the shattered country. While Mr Mobutu was able to impose his will by threats and bribes, no successor can count on these tactics. Mr Kabila will need to redouble the discipline in his victorious ranks: not least because his first task must be to ensure the safe return of the Hutus saved from the jaws of death.

JOYS OF A BURSAR

Even in the land of high finance, money is not everything

Who wants to be a millionaire? Those who proclaim that they do not seem to protest too much. They would carry more conviction if there was ever any chance of their becoming millionaires. Lyric poets, students and artists starving in garrets can afford to despise wealth. They do not have the chance to do anything else with it. But the passion for the lottery suggests that most people would not turn down the chance to be seriously rich if the lucky finger of fortune pointed at them.

So the story of the rising City businessman who sacrifices wealth for the good life is a moral fable for our times as well as a stock topic for romance. John Martyn was the finance director of Dalgety, the makers of cattle feed and pet foods. He commuted daily from Oxford to an office in Mayfair, worked long hours, and earned a salary of £220,000 a year for his life of strain and train. Then last week he decided to give it all up for a gentler life of ideals and self-fulfilment.

The Times acts the part of messenger in his story. Michael Beloff, the President of Trinity College, Oxford, read our report of Mr Martyn's decision to "downshift". Trinity's long-serving estates bursar is about to retire. So Mr Beloff head-hunted the finance director in a reverse bid to astound the professionals. And as we report on page 42 of Business News today, Trinity's governing body has elected Mr Martyn to the post. Now estates bursar is an honourable pro-

fession, but few become millionaires. And Trinity is a beautiful little college, but nothing like as rich as Trinity, Cambridge, or Christ Church. Over its 450 years it has accumulated wealth in farmland and rock-solid investments. But this is static wealth, not the volatile billions of high City finance.

So a Trinity bursar is concerned with the petty finance of farm rents, student grants and the wages of college servants. He will be dealing with the peanuts of college money rather than the high protein of cattle feed millions. And his academic salary as bursar will be only about an eighth of the emoluments package of a rising finance director.

But as the poets have always sung, some emoluments are worth more than money. In the garden quadrangle of Trinity the bursar will have a prospect of the finest lawns and borders in Oxford. He can dine at high table beside the cleverest and most eccentric intellectuals of his generation, and every day meet the rising stars of the next generation. The new bursar can walk to work instead of surfing the rush hour. While handling Trinity's investment portfolio, he will have more time for his charitable interests.

So Mr Martyn's new job is not quixotic folly. It is a poetic fable come to life in the prosaic world of rents and funds. And Mr Martyn is a consolation to non-millionaires, who in spite of the lottery are always going greatly to outnumber millionaires.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-752 5000

Calls for the nation to re-examine attitudes to Europe

From Lord Thomas of Swynerton

Sir, Now that the Conservatives have to choose a new leader let us hope that they will select a statesman who will brush aside the last few years' out-of-date hankering for "a Europe of nation states", who appreciates and understands the great benefits to us of our membership of the European Union and of our shared sovereignty with our neighbours; and who realises how important it is for Britain to seek to be genuinely "at the heart of Europe".

Yours faithfully,
HUGH THOMAS,
House of Lords,
May 2.

From Sir Roy Denman

Sir, A deservedly triumphant Mr Blair may not yet be aware of the fact, but in a few months' time Britain will begin its retreat from Europe. The timetable looks like this.

EMU is still likely to start on January 1, 1999. The members of the first wave will be formally decided next May, but will effectively be known this autumn. With a minor delay possibly for Italy, all the present members of the Union will be locked into a single currency except bankrupt Greece and the UK, Sweden and Denmark (the Euro-sceptic, northern periphery).

Mr Robin Cook has effectively ruled out joining before 2002, but even that date seems unlikely. For one of the criteria for entry is, in the words of the Maastricht treaty, "the observance of the normal fluctuation margins of the European Monetary System for at least two years, without devaluation against any other Member State".

Would the Government be prepared to put a highly volatile sterling into a European straitjacket in three years' time? If not, EMU for Britain seems improbable in the lifetime of this administration.

In the meantime, an increasingly integrated Europe of the eleven will be quick to resent any way in which we might seem to be getting, in a single market, a competitive advantage which their tighter discipline forbids. So if speculators force a devaluation of sterling, or if our partners find our

wages or taxes dangerously competitive (social and fiscal dumping), they will surcharge our exports.

We would then effectively have been pushed out of the European Union. The cost would be foreign investment moving massively to the Continent, lost exports and jobs and vanishing influence.

The alternative — a firm decision to enter, as soon as practicable, the ERM and then in due course a single currency — could mean greater stability, lower interest rates, higher growth and a leading role in the further integration of Europe. It would encounter a firestorm of domestic opposition, and would need leadership and persuasion on a heroic scale but without it Britain will be out of Europe. The countdown begins this autumn.

Yours faithfully,
ROY DENMAN,
26 St Luke's Street, SW3,
May 2.

From Mr John Szemerey

Sir, Now the election is over, bridges will have to be rebuilt with Europe. The Conservatives, having opted for a Eurosceptic stance during the election, will now have to rebuild the party and rekindle their links and friendships with continental conservative and like-minded political parties. Because of their negative campaign on Europe — insulting continental politicians and pretending that Europe was a threat to Britain — they have a long way to go before they will again be taken seriously and before anyone in Europe listens to them. But time is on their side.

Labour starts with a clean slate, although Tony Blair and Robin Cook blotted their copybook in the later stages of the election campaign by trying to be as jingoistic on Europe as the Conservatives. Still, this will be accepted as having been said in the heat of battle, and they will be given the benefit of the doubt. They will be listened to and judged by what they actually say and do in Brussels, not by the baggage they bring with them.

So now is Britain's opportunity once again to play a major role in Europe. If ministers come to meetings with an open mind and goodwill, trying to make Europe work for the benefit of

all its members, they can achieve a lot — a lot for Europe, and a lot for Britain. If they do not, there is every likelihood of the European Union breaking up into a multi-speed Europe, with Britain relegated to an undignified place in the lower league.

Yours faithfully,
J. SZEMEREY,
76 Marnisdään,
B-3090 Overijse, Belgium,
May 2.

From J. R. Francis

Sir, I was astonished to see Lord Mackenzie-Stuart (letter, May 1) refer to "the sound tradition of judicial abstinence from political involvement". The European Court of Justice, of which he is a former president, is, I would submit, a political rather than a judicial court, by mandate and practice ruling in the EU interest.

It is equally surprising to read that one so eminent apparently believes that the way to prevent recurrence of the war of more than 50 years ago is to bind together the unwilling (and for the most part unasked) people of Europe into precisely the same Teutonic behemoth against which so many fought and so many died so long ago. Can he not see that relations between the peoples of Europe become more strained at each notch of the EU ratchet?

Yours faithfully,
J. R. FRANCIS,
Sunnybank, Church Lane,
West Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire,
May 1.

From Mr John Deas

Sir, Lord Mackenzie-Stuart has no time for critics of the European Union who "never saw shattered London or the devastated ruins of the Ruhr", because he believes that the EU is our bulwark against such events.

Images of other ruins, from Atlanta to Sarajevo, remind us that political union without popular consent is no reliable bulwark against war.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DEAS,
5 Woolston Drive, Alsager,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire,
May 1.

also learn to appreciate British archaeologists.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MILES, Director,
Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd,
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford,
April 29.

From the Director of the Museum of London

Sir, Professor Geoffrey Wainwright, Chief Archaeologist of English Heritage, correctly identifies in his letter of April 29 that the new data derived from sites in England through the operation of the planning process has the potential to provide a rich resource for future archaeological research.

However, two problems are unresolved. First, how is such research to be funded on an appropriate scale? This is mainly a problem for the universities. Second, how are the costs to be met for the indefinite care of the finds and records that provide the archaeological data?

Let us hope the new Government addresses this issue. Otherwise the research will never happen because the material will be inaccessible.

Yours faithfully,
MAX HEBDITCH,
Director, Museum of London,
London Wall, EC2.

Changing archaeology

From the Director of the Oxford Archaeological Unit

Sir, So British archaeology is stuck "in the doldrums" (Mr Tim Tanton-Brown's letter, April 23; see also letter, April 29). It does not feel like that from where I stand.

In 1990 the Department of the Environment issued its "Planning Policy Guidance Note 16" shifting the main responsibility for funding archaeology from central government to the individual developer. Since then evaluation in advance of building development has led to a regular flow of major discoveries.

In the Thames Valley, for example, huge buried prehistoric landscapes, previously unknown, have been found and excavated.

These are just as significant and exciting as the projects of the 1960s and 1970s which Mr Tanton-Brown rightly admires.

Modern British archaeology cannot be all that bad. We have just been awarded one of the French Government's largest research contracts to survey and excavate Château Mayenne in Maine, possibly the earliest-known castle in France.

Perhaps the National Lottery might

After the Lima siege

From Lord Avebury

Sir, Your leader of April 24, "After the siege" [see also letter, May 2], rightly points out that the resolution of the embassy siege in Peru has given President Fujimori an opening in which to force through "democratic and social reforms so needed by his country".

The Peru Support Group deplores the actions of the MRTA (Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru). However, whilst Peru's gross social inequalities combine with political exclusion, there is a temptation to resort to unconstitutional means of securing change.

The group, along with many other organisations, works to encourage lasting structural change in Peru to ensure social and political justice for all Peruvians, who are themselves the people most affected by terrorism.

The embassy siege concentrated international attention on Peru. If the country's social problems were examined as closely as this one incident, international pressure could encourage the reforms that are necessary.

Resources should be expended urgently on grassroots projects to ameliorate the living conditions of the great majority of Peruvians who receive little benefit from current government policies.

Yours faithfully,
AVEBURY,
(Sponsor), Peru Support Group,
Fenner Brockway House,
37-39 Great Guildford Street, SE1,
April 28.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-752 5046.

Recalling a British 'icon' in India

From Lieutenant-General S. K. Pillai

Sir, On January 23, 1871, a party of Mizo tribesmen raided a tea garden at Alexanderpore in the Surma Valley in North East India, killed a tea planter, Mr James Winchester, and kidnapped his six-year-old daughter, Mary.

This event created a sensation in England. The Times ran a series of dispatches and a millionaire, Mr Robert Arthington, formed a missionary society — the Arthington Aborigines Mission — to work in the Mizo area, then known as the Lushai Hills.

Mary, who was handed over by her kidnappers to the Chinging Column of the Lushai Expeditionary Force on January 21, 1872, was then sent to her grandfather in London.

Later she studied in Cambridge, married Harry Innes Howie, and occupied herself in good works and church activities. She was an ardent campaigner for the abolition of the Bawi (slavery) system in the Lushai Hills.

Mary's kidnapping prompted a change of British policy in the region from one of conciliation to the enforced establishment of British administration in the Lushai Hills. Indirectly it led to a high level of literacy and the establishment and spread of Christianity in the area.

Today, in the Mizoram area, Mary Winchester has become an icon. There are many monuments to her; expeditions are made from Mizoram to the tea garden at Alexanderpore, where hymns are sung at the site of the kidnapping.

Her letters sent from England to friends in the Lushai Hills are carefully treasured. At a museum in Champhai, near the Indo-Burmese border, I came across a letter sent by her in which her address is given as 13 Massington Road, London.

I would be particularly happy to learn from anybody who may have memorabilia of Mary's stay in the Lushai Hills and of her writings.

With regards, yours faithfully,
S. K. PILLAI,
Vichitra,
Jawahar Nagar,
Trivandrum 695 041, India,
May 2.

Pink peril

From Miss H. van Eijl

Sir, My advice to the National Lottery would be to reject Leander rowing club's £1.5 million application if its members have only voted to admit women in order to pursue this grant (reports, April 26, 28; see also letter, May 2).

Some members of Leander feel their status as a "high-performance" centre may be compromised, but other boat clubs have shown that high standards of achievement and membership for both men and women can be combined.

Moreover, the presence of the other sex makes rowing even more enjoyable, something the club may have forgotten.

Yours faithfully,
H. van EIJL,
(Joint Captain,
St Anne's College Boat Club,
St Anne's College, Oxford,
May 2).

Water supplies

From Mrs Penelope Sherwood

Sir, Wing Commander Derek Martin (letter, April 26) suggests that people who bought shares in the water industry were paying for what they already owned. Not so.

The people who bought shares, as I did, were indirectly paying the people who did not buy shares for their share.

Yours faithfully,
PENNELOPE SHERWOOD,
271 Swakeleys Road,
Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex,
April 26.

Dressed to the nines?

From Mrs David Jarvis

Sir, Back in the 1930s, when I was working in advertising, my wardrobe consisted mainly of wool or tweed suits in charcoal grey, olive green or navy. Shoulders were minimally padded and skirts reached to roughly two inches below the knee. The suits were called "costumes".

I wore court-style shoes with Cuban heels. My hair was "bobbed" to an inch below my earlobes, and make-up was mainly confined to face powder and a little discreet lipstick.

Were we setting the trend for the Nineties?

Yours faithfully,

DAVID JARVIS,
28 Penn Grove Road, Hereford,
May 1.

Nesting habits

From Dr David Simons

Sir, Surely Mrs Geoffrey Burnand's birds (letter, May 3) are not a *menage à trois* so much as a cocktail party.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SIMONS,
The Old Mill,
Calver Road,
Baslow, Derbyshire,
May 3.

OBITUARIES

Sir John Junor, Editor of the *Sunday Express*, 1954-86, died on May 3 aged 78. He was born on January 15, 1919.

John Junor edited and ruled the *Sunday Express* for a record 33 years. Like many outstanding editors, he aroused very strong — and often contradictory — feelings among his staff, his Fleet Street colleagues and the public. He was loathed and loved, admired and ridiculed.

Many of his staff thought he was an able, stimulating editor; others, however, found him a harsh and repressive regime. He had his favourites and those he hated. He was once taken to the staff by one of his personal assistants. He could be very generous and supportive to some individuals, yet several of his staff considered him "the meanest man in Fleet Street". Prejudiced and absolutely certain of his own righteousness, he was just the sort of editor many male (though very few female) journalists like working for.

He was not in any sense a conventionally successful editor. When he retired in 1986 he had seen the circulation of the *Sunday Express* sink from a high of 4½ million in the mid-Fifties to only barely over 2.2 million when he vacated his editorial chair. It is now, of course, a full million lower than that. The principal cause of the decline was Junor's own decision to try to preserve his paper in a time warp.

The *Sunday Express* was nostalgic and appealed to readers who were conservative by disposition and approach, even if they voted Liberal or Labour. As editor he had no intention of changing what, at least in the early years, was a very successful formula devised by his predecessor John Gordon and his proprietor Lord Beaverbrook. In 1974 Gordon, who had written a weekly column called "Current Events" for many years after ceasing to be editor, died. Junor took over from him and, until he finally left the paper in 1989, wrote a weekly column, under the byline of J.J., which was, unapologetically, aimed at "Middle Britain".

The column reflected his Scottish Presbyterian, respectable working-class upbringing. In it he paraded his prejudices — against homosexuals, socialists, bursars, Liberalism, Rail and the Left, generally. The "age of Austerity" as *Private Eye* called it, attracted a following for his blunt, plain man's approach; but as a replica of *Private Eye*, he was also bitterly attacked — not least for what some (including the

Press Council on a famous occasion) saw as his underlying racism.

The truth was, though, more a case of Junor refusing to make any concessions to contemporary fashion. He had deliberately chosen to write about Austerity and the beliefs of its inhabitants because, as he put it: "I wanted a sort of *Brigadoon* place which had been by-passed by the modern world and in which old-fashioned virtues still persisted."

In his slightly unsatisfactory volume of memoirs, *Listening for a Midnight Train* (1990), Junor proudly recalled that he was born in Glasgow "in a red-stone tenement... a two-roomed flat without indoor sanitation". His father was a steelworker but the great influence on him was his mother, who determined that her children should all go to university — and they did. Junor went to Glasgow University in 1936 to study English literature and to launch his political career as a Liberal.

He graduated just before the outbreak of war in 1939 and immediately joined the navy as a midshipman RNR. He was accepted for the Fleet Air Arm and qualified as a pilot, but it was a part-time job at base that, in his words, "changed my life". In early 1944 he produced a station magazine which so impressed the Admiralty that he was summoned to London to be assistant editor of a new Fleet Air Arm magazine to be edited by the *Punch* contributor and Independent MP for Oxford University, A.P. Herbert. In the event, Herbert eventually decided not to take the job. Junor thus had his first editorial chair at 25 and ran *Flight Deck* until the end of the war. During this time he "moonlighted" as a sub-editor for the Australian Associated Press in London.

As a young man in his late twenties and very early thirties, Junor unsuccessfully contested three parliamentary seats as a Liberal. In the 1945 general election he fought Kincardine and Western and — in the absence of a Labour candidate — was beaten by the sitting Conservative MP by only 642 votes. He tried again at a by-election at Edinburgh East in 1947, and only when he was narrowly defeated at Dundee West in 1951 — this time in the absence of a Conservative candidate — did he put politics behind him and resolve to concentrate on journalism. The only explanation he ever offered for the switch was Beaverbrook's promise, if he gave up politics, to "put upon my head a golden crown".

After demobilisation, Junor had worked for a time for the *Sydney Sun* in London; office until he was sacked two weeks before Christmas in 1947. He wrote to Arthur Christiansen asking for a job and that legendary editor took a liking to

SIR JOHN JUNOR



him and made him a reporter on the *Daily Express* at 18 guineas a week. It was the beginning of what was to be a 41 years' association with *Express Newspapers*. It was not only Christiansen he charmed and impressed. The proprietor also warned to this young Scotsman, and his rise was rapid. For a time Junor wrote the *Sunday Express* political Cross-Bencher column, even though the paper's policy was Tory and he was still a Liberal.

By 1951 he was an assistant editor and leader writer for the *Daily Express*. He moved to the *Evening Standard* as deputy

editor in 1953. In the summer of the following year Beaverbrook suddenly summoned Junor and told him that he would replace John Gordon's immediate successor, Harold Keeble, as Editor of the *Sunday Express* that autumn.

He had an unhappy first few months but gradually settled in and was able to impose his philosophy (which happened to coincide with Beaverbrook's) that, in the words of his memoirs "it should be a newspaper which made people feel better, not worse, on a Sunday — that it should be a newspaper of optimism." The formula

worked and, even when circulation began to slip, he found it difficult to alter it for fear of offending some section of the remaining readership. He felt that a large proportion of his readers wanted a paper that was fit to leave lying about the house and would be alienated by circulation-grabbing sex and sensation.

In December 1956 Junor himself made front-page headlines. He wrote a leader headlined "Privilege" attacking politicians for giving the parties additional petrol in the rationing that followed the Suez disaster. Members of Parliament were outraged and Junor and the *Sunday Express* were referred to the Committee of Privileges, which decided he should be brought before the Bar of the House of Commons. He later recalled that, strangely enough, he received no advice or support from Beaverbrook but telephone calls from two Labour Members, Cresswell and Crossman suggested he stood firm, spoke out for freedom of the press, and told the House to go to hell: while the old rebel Manny Shinwell advised placating the Commons by apologising.

When he was brought to the Bar, Junor began by expressing his "sincere and unreserved apologies for any imputation or reflection which I may have caused upon the honour and integrity" of Members. But he did go on to say that he believed the allowances for politicians "were a proper and indeed inescapable subject for comment in a free press". The House decided that his honour had been preserved.

The Liberal attitude to Suez finally completed his growing disillusion with the Liberal Party and from then on he was a loud and loyal Tory of the Right. He was an early admirer of Margaret Thatcher and she of him. She liked his "direct incisive style" and once said that "the things that stuck in your gullet were the things that stuck in mine". It was no surprise when, on her recommendation, he was knighted in one of her earliest Honours Lists (until the moment of her fall he was regularly one of her lunch guests at Chequers on Boxing Day).

Junor had not always, however, basked in prime ministerial favour. Although he got on reasonably well with Harold Wilson — whom in the 1950s and early 1960s he had turned into a frequent *Sunday Express* contributor — that was not the case with Harold Macmillan. In the spring of 1963 Beaverbrook had actually accepted Junor's resignation. The proprietor for "founding shareholder" as he liked to describe himself remained, even after the Vassall and Profumo affairs, a strong supporter of Macmillan's administration. Junor, however, felt he

could not support a Prime Minister who had been responsible for sending two journalists to prison — at the Vassall tribunal two reporters had refused to disclose their sources for the stories they had written and, as a result, were jailed for contempt. But luck came to Junor's aid. While he was still working out his six months' notice, Macmillan himself resigned and Junor and Beaverbrook made it up.

He remained Editor of the *Sunday Express* for another 23 years, by which time there were no more Aikens or any of Beaverbrook's kin left in the *Express* group. Beaverbrook's son Max Aiken had in 1977 sold out to Trafalgar House which, having renamed the company Fleet and placed the papers under the supervision of Victor Matthews, was, in turn, to fall victim to a takeover bid from David Stevens and United Newspapers.

Junor had got on well with Matthews but he did not feel similarly drawn to his successor and two years later, in 1986, he resigned his editorial chair. He continued to write the J.J. column under the editorship of Robin Esser for a further three years but left in some dudgeon after Esser was replaced and a new editor took charge. (His real complaint seems to have been that he had not been consulted about the new appointment). The revenge he exacted was a typically robust one. He took his column off to the rival *Mail on Sunday*, where — though now bylined John Junor rather than J.J. — it was to appear regularly until yesterday.

His distinctive flavour, no doubt, played its part in widening the circulation gap between the two *Sunday* middle-market papers — something that the *What the Papers Say* judges implicitly recognised earlier this year when they presented Junor with their Gerald Barry award. Again characteristically, this left him feeling rather grumpy — complaining to his neighbours at the annual lunch at the Savoy Hotel that the award should have been specifically associated with his column rather than being in the nature of a gold watch for a lifetime of meritorious service.

Junor kept working virtually till the end of his life, his last column appearing in the *Mail on Sunday* only just over a week ago. Apart from newspapers, his passions were sailing and golf — though he also would regularly announce his devotion to a variety of attractive and celebrated women.

He lived separately from his wife Pamela, whom he married in 1942. She and a son and a daughter — Penny Junor formerly of BBC TV's *The Travel Show* — survive him.

HUGHIE GREEN

Hughie Green, television presenter and entertainer, died on May 3 aged 77. He was born on February 2, 1920.

HUGHIE GREEN was for three decades one of the best-known faces in British light entertainment. He had been quick to spot the television potential of game shows and talent contests, and the programmes in which he developed these formats — *Double Your Money*, *The Slys*, *The Limit*, *Opportunity Knocks* — drew viewers in their millions week after week for years on end.

A natural showman and salesman, and a child star at the age of 13, Green instinctively understood the allure of wealth and fame, and he exploited the public appetite for vicarious glamour and greed with unabashed vulgarity and a skill few performers have matched. As a result, he was admired and detested in almost equal measure, his archly ingratiating manner easy meat to satirical impressionists, his hand-wringing assurances of good faith as instantly recognisable as Dennis Healey's eyebrows or Harold Wilson's pipe — "and I mean that most sincerely, folks".

Hugh Hughes Green was born in London. His father was a prosperous Scots-Canadian fish merchant, his mother an Irish amateur soprano. There was something of a theatrical tradition in the family and his parents' friends included a number of variety artists, among them his godfather, the music hall comedian Harry Tate. It was Tate who unwittingly

furnished the material for Green's first solo appearance, when the boy did an impression of his godfather singing Gilbert and Sullivan at London's Garrick Theatre. Green was 11 at the time, but had already booked a theatre and put on a charity show, with his friends the previous year, raising £4.38 for the Royal Northern Hospital appeal.

His theatrical life soon took precedence over his distinguished academic career (at a prep school in St John's Wood and a boarding school in Bromley), and at the age of 13 he managed to secure an appearance on the radio programme *In Town Tonight*. On the strength of it, he was given his own regular 15-minute show, *Hughie and his Gang*. The following year he was playing in big theatres up and down the country, and in 1935 he made his film debut in *Midshipman Easy*, directed by Carol Reed. His business acumen was already as strong as his theatrical talent, and he was soon running three touring companies, employing almost 200 people. He was Britain's highest-paid child star by the time he was 15. He had a car before he was old enough to drive.

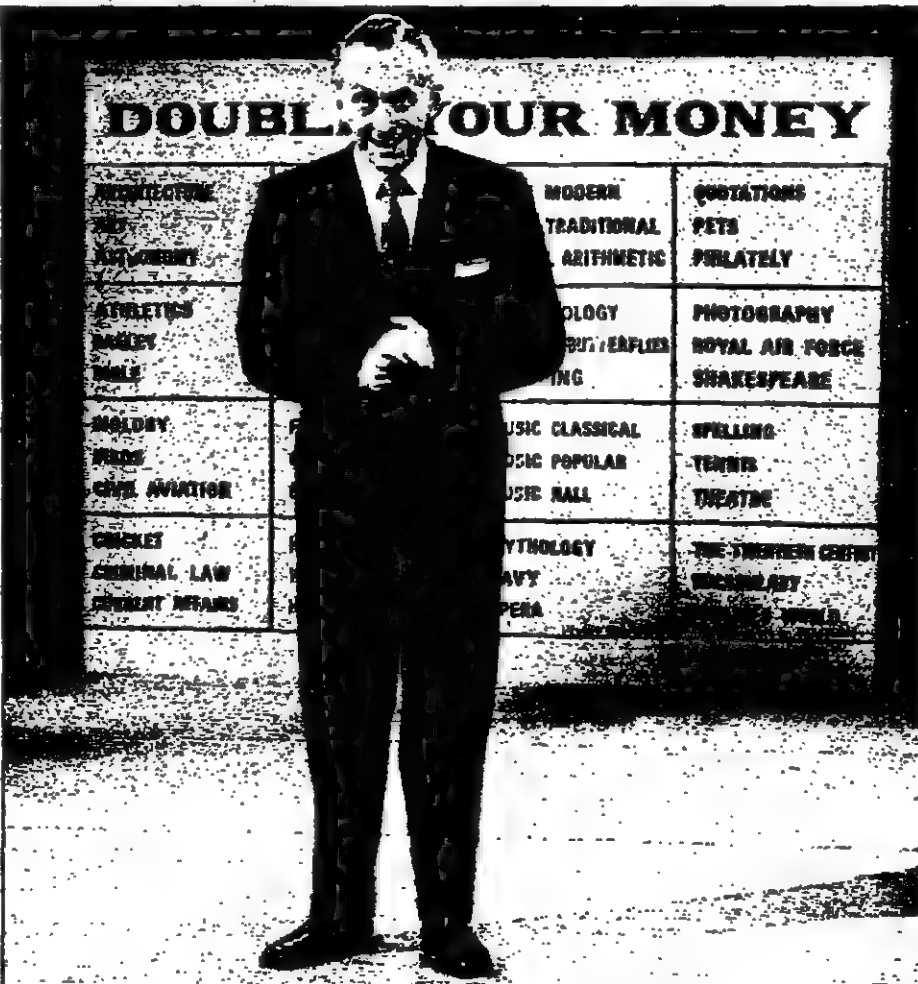
He developed an early enthusiasm for flying and during the Second World War served with the Royal Canadian Air Force, ferrying planes across the Atlantic. After the war he returned to England where in 1948 he began a radio version of the talent show *Opportunity Knocks*. It ran for 33 weeks, attracting some 13 million listeners, but it was taken off the air in 1949 after a row between Green and the

BBC. It was the first of many such quarrels.

Green was capable of great kindness and consideration, especially towards what he called the "little people" who appeared on and watched his programmes. But he could be difficult to work with — hot-tempered, belligerent, on behalf of causes he believed in, sensitive to real and imagined slights and outspoken in his criticism of those with whom he disagreed. He was also extremely litigious, and after his programme was dropped he issued a writ alleging a malicious conspiracy to prevent his employment by the BBC.

He lost the case, and was declared bankrupt when costs were awarded against him. To repay his debts, he worked for four years in a variety of jobs. He ferried planes as he had in the Second World War, on one occasion losing an engine and almost his life on a flight from Iceland to Greenland; the thriller writer Duncan Kyle, who accompanied him on one of these flights, used the experience as the background to one of his novels, *Flight into Fear*. By the time he was solvent again, Green had done stunt flying in Hollywood, acted on American television and taken small roles in several MGM films.

Green returned to British broadcasting when commercial television went on the air. He was in the studio on the first night of transmission, explaining to viewers his new programme, *Double Your Money*, in which contestants had to answer simple questions in return for cash prizes of up to £1,000. The show became a huge success, consistently among the most popular of the 1960s. When it was taken off the air in 1968, it was replaced by a variation on the same format, *The Slys*, in which Green put questions to the contestants in the form of puns: "Does a crab with two nippers get family allowances?"



Green, a tall man with silvery hair and pale blue eyes, which he fixed unblinkingly on his audience, used general knowledge and a mischievous sense of humour to his advantage. His mannered sincerity infuriated what he dismissed as "the intellectuals" and "the arty critics", but it succeeded in putting at ease

the amateur performers and participants in his programmes. It made a particular hit of his talent show, *Opportunity Knocks*, which he presented for 16 years until it was dropped in 1978.

The show proved to be a first step towards success for such entertainers as Les Dawson, Mary Hopkin, Little and Large, Lena Zavaroni and Pam Ayres. It also featured a succession of dancers, singers and comedians who have never been heard of since, as well as a man who played *Scotland the Brave* on the harmonica while hanging from a scaffold upside down. More than 10,000 hopefuls applied to appear in each series, and Green travelled 15,000 miles a year to audition them. Frequent vote-rigging scandals showed how influential the programme was thought to be. At its peak it was watched by 24 million people.

Green blamed the eventual demise of the programme on the fact that his populist approach was at odds with the cultural and intellectual pretensions of those for whom he was then working, chief among them Jeremy Isaacs, director of programmes at Thames Television. "The showmen have all gone and the current affairs people have taken over," he protested. "My crime is that I always aimed my shows at an audience that lived beyond the borders of Eaton Square."

Those beliefs eventually became an obsession. Describing himself in 1982 as "a bitter man — very bitter", he denounced what he saw as a left-wing conspiracy in British broadcasting. "The media has its own Arthur Scargill, who, instead of mining for coal are mining the minds of the British people."

In fact it was Green who had repeatedly brought politics into entertainment, with such stunts as a special edition of *Opportunity Knocks* broadcast from a Polaris nuclear submarine, and, on one bi-

zarre occasion in 1977, ending the programme with a gloomy, sentimental appeal to Churchillian values and a patriotic song called *Stand Up and Be Counted*, performed by the Wimbledon Operatic Society chorus, the Bob Sharpleys Orchestra and massed ranks of air and sea cadets.

He was a staunch believer in private enterprise, rugged individualism and firm government. "The minute we start to crumble authority we are in trouble," he said. He supported censorship — "I sincerely believe there are certain of us who are better equipped to know what is good for us than others" — and backed Mary Whitehouse in being "prepared to speak up for clean boots and short hair". British television was "the most sordid and at times most pornographic of any country in the world". He thought American programmes far better.

Green's belief in entrepreneurship served him well once television had dispensed with his services. He had pursued a variety of business interests with great energy throughout his life, selling anything from planes to public address systems, and being actively involved in the development of commercial radio. In the early 1980s he made an unsuccessful bid for the London independent television franchise.

Between his television and business activities, he sought relaxation in sailing and in model railways, to which he devoted a room in his London flat above Baker Street station. Hughie Green was divorced from his wife in 1975 after a long separation, and she died in 1995. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

Church news

Archdeacon of Colchester
Canon Martin Wallace, Priest-in-Charge, Bradwell St Thomas w St Lawrence, Industrial Chaplain to Bradwell Power Station, and a non-residential Canon of Colchester Cathedral, is to be Archdeacon of Colchester, diocese of Chelmsford, succeeding the Ven Ernie Smoud who retires at the end of April 1997.

Appointments
The Rev Will Adam, Assistant Curate, Beaconsfield Team Ministry, to be Team Vicar designate, Winney Team Ministry (Oxford).
The Rev Captain Paul Allison, Church Army, Assistant Curate, Shadforth, in plurality w the Unitarian to be Priest-in-Charge, St Peter's, Byers Green, and continue as Diocesan Children's Adviser (Durham).
The Rev Brian Birchmore, Vicar, Greenstead, to be Parochial and Associate Priest, All Hallows-by-

the-Tower (London).
The Rev Peter Ballantine, Training Officer, Rugby deanery, and priest-in-charge, Churchover w Wilby, Clifton w Dunsmore and Newton (Covenry), to be Director, Children Christian Training Programme (Oxford).
The Rev Gregory Beheydt, Chaplain of St Andrew's, Tangier, Morocco to be Chaplain, All Saints, Milan, Italy (Europe).

The Rev Michael Blood, Vicar, Cotteridge, Birmingham (Birmingham); to be also Honorary Canon of Birmingham Cathedral.
The Rev Stephen Cox, NSM, Widdington Team Ministry, to be Associate Minister, St Andrew, Oxford (Oxford).

The Rev Gillian Cooke, Anglican Chaplain at Keele University (Lichfield); to be full-time Chaplain at Rampton Hospital (Southwell).
The Rev Clinton Davis, Rector, Sandgate St Paul w Folkestone St George (the Chaplain of Stanford Hill Prison, Isle of Sheppey).

Canterbury, Canon Ronald Dix, formerly Rector, Christ Church, Fremantle, Southampton (Winchester), and recently retired; to be the Bishop of Dover's Honorary Chaplain (Canterbury).
The Rev Ferial Eberington, Bishop's representative for child protection (as Consultant), St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance; to be Selection Secretary and Local Non-Synodical Ministry Co-ordinator, Advisory Board of Ministry, Church House, Westminster.
The Rev Richard Eberidge, Vicar, St John, Langley, and Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, Oldbury, and St Michael, Langley (Birmingham); to be also an Honorary Canon of Birmingham Cathedral.

The Rev Tim Evans, Priest-in-Charge, Sharnbrook and Assistant Chaplain to Lancaster University (Blackburn); to be Priest-in-Charge, Nailand, and Deputy Principal of Carlisle and Blackburn Diocesan Training Institute.

The Rev Christopher Peak, Assistant Curate, St Mary w The Epiphany, Handsworth; to be Priest-in-Charge, St Martin, Perry Common (Birmingham).

The Rev Richard Grosse, Vicar, Barton and Manfield and Cleasby w Stapleton; to be also Assistant Rural Dean of Richmond (Ripon).
The Rev David Hart, Senior Chaplain, University of Loughborough (Leicester); to be Chaplain to Whitelands College and Anglican Chaplain to the Rothamsted Institute, London (Southwark).

Retirements
The Rev Philip Hacking, Vicar, Folwood (Sheffield); to retire October 31. The Rev John Harris-Douglas, Vicar, Brufferton w Pinner, Myron-on-Smole and Thornaby (York); to retire April 30. The Rev Kenneth Jones, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Millhouses (Sheffield); to retire October 31. The Rev Tony March, Vicar, Prestonville St Luke (Cotchester); to retire.

SIR F. TREVES ON THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

A LARGELY attended meeting was held in the great hall of the Church House yesterday afternoon by the Women's Union of the Church of England Temperance Society. Canon J.W. Hensley presided.

Sir Frederick Treves, in an address on "The Physical Effects of the use of Alcohol", said that alcohol was, of course, distinctly a poison. It had certain uses, like other poisons, but the limitations on its use should be as strict as on arsenic, opium and strychnine. It was a curiously insidious poison, producing effects which seemed to be only relieved by taking more of it — a remark which applied to another insidious poison, morphine, or opium.

It had a certain position as medicine, but in the last 25 years its use by the medical profession had steadily and emphatically diminished. People were often heard to say that alcohol was an excellent appetizer when taken before meals. But the appetite did not need artificial stimulation; if the body wanted feeding it demanded food. As for its "aiding digestion", it hindered digestion even when taken in small amounts.

Then there was the idea that alcohol was strengthening. As a fact, it curiously modified

ON THIS DAY

May 5, 1905



Sir Frederick Treves (1853-1923), the surgeon who carried out a successful operation for appendicitis on King Edward VII, is best known today for saving the Elephant Man from a life as a fairsground freak.

the nourishment of the body; it greatly lessened the output of carbonic acid — a very important matter — so that the drunkard was necessarily an ill-nourished man and to reach the state of physical condition was impossible if any alcohol was used. Its stimulating effect was only momentary, and after that had passed off the capacity for work fell enormously.

Alcohol, as it were, brought up the whole of the reserve forces of the body and threw them into action, and when these were used up there was nothing to fall back on. It dissipated rather than conserved bodily energy. As a

work producer it was exceedingly extravagant and might lead to a physical bankruptcy; and he was not speaking, he would remind them, of excessive drinking. It was a curious fact that troops could not march on alcohol. In the Ladysmith relief column, which he accompanied, the first men to drop out were simply the men who drank. The fact was as clear as if they had all borne labels on their backs.

As for the statement that alcohol was "a great thing for the circulation", it increased the heartbeat and reddened the skin by using up the body's reserve power, but then the heart's action became emphatically weaker, a temporary effect being got at an enormous cost. The action of alcohol on the central nervous system was very definite, and was that of a functional poison, first stimulating and then depressing the nervous system. The higher nervous centres went first. The man who worked on even a moderate amount of alcohol was not at his best. Fine work could not be done under that condition.

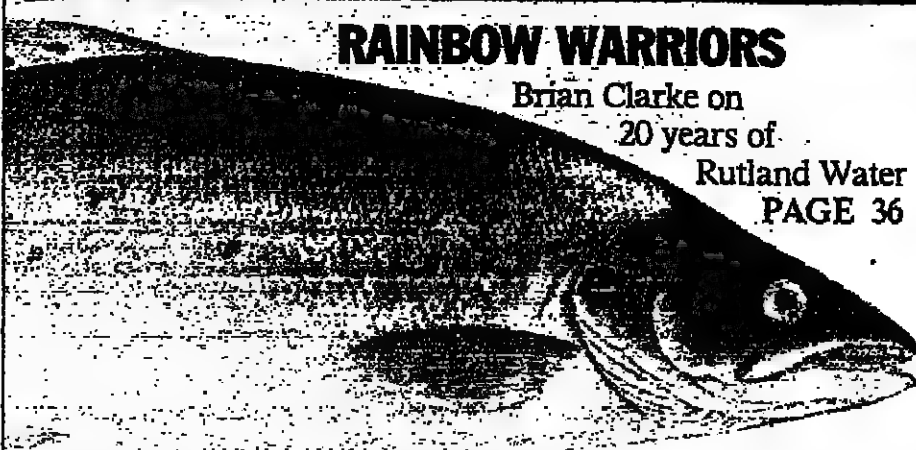
The last notion he would refer to was that alcohol kept out the cold — that a "little nip" was good when going out into cold air, and so forth. In the words of a great authority, alcohol really lowered the temperature of the body and much reduced the power of the body to resist

TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT

SUMMER OF SPORT

RAINBOW WARRIORS

Brian Clarke on
20 years of
Rutland Water
PAGE 36

SUNDAY
OPENING

Last chance to enter
our cricket game
PAGE 38

Reports from all
the Sunday League
matches PAGE 37

HORSE AND
SUPERHORSE

How
Entrepreneur
won the 2,000 Guineas
PAGE 35



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MAY 5 1997

FOUR POINTS FOR UNITED WILL COMPLETE CLEAN SWEEP



If Cantona lifts the Premiership trophy again, he will complete a sweep of English League championships by Greater Manchester teams begun by Bolton Wanderers, centre, and continued by Bury, top right, and Wigan Athletic

Manchester: first city of football

Oliver Holt considers how a cluster of neighbouring clubs have dominated all the English League championships this season

THERE used to be a pub in the Withington district of Manchester that the local ravers nicknamed M-VITA, an acronym for Manchester Vibes In The Area. The pub is closed now, a victim of the changing music scene but, judging by this morning's league tables, the vibes are alive and well in the city's football clubs.

Manchester United are leading the way, of course, cantering to the brink of their fourth championship in five years with their 2-2 draw away to Leicester City on Saturday. If they can gain at least four points from their last three FA Cup Premier-ship games, all at Old Trafford, they will force their superiority down the throats of the pretenders from the other great footballing metropolises of London, Liverpool and Birmingham for another season.

The dominance of Manchester in domestic football this year, though, extends far beyond the hegemony of United. If Alex Ferguson's team is the shining star at its centre, it has

suddenly become surrounded by a group of champagne supernovas, an oasis of success in a country of fans who can only watch and envy.

On Saturday, a select group of the region's once downtrodden clubs, teams who used to put the "er" into Greater Manchester, completed an unprecedented championship sweep of the other top four divisions. Even in an illustrious football history, the area has never had it this good.

In 1973, Liverpool, Burnley, Bolton and Southport established a monopoly of divisional titles for Lancashire clubs. This year, though the power base has become even more concentrated. As United go from strength to strength, it is almost as if their success has trickled down to local clubs, once resigned to a life as support acts and usually accustomed

only to haemorrhaging a steady stream of fans to the big-city teams.

Just like the city centre, rejuvenated by the redevelopment of its theatres, its opera house and its cinemas, emboldened by the worldwide success of bands such as Oasis.

United held 29
Bolton draw 31
Results and tables 30

the football clubs, too, seem to have been infused with a spirit of regeneration.

At the bottom end of the scale, just beyond the southern limits of the city, Macclesfield Town, managed by the former United midfielder player, Sammy McIlroy, struck the first blow for

the region's hegemony on Saturday. Their win over Kettering Town clinched the GM Vauxhall Conference title and ensured their promotion to the Nationwide League third division next season for the first time in their history.

The third division title went to Wigan Athletic, the team from the traditional rugby league stronghold, who pipped Fulham to by virtue of goals scored. They beat Mansfield Town at Springfield Park on Saturday to secure the prize.

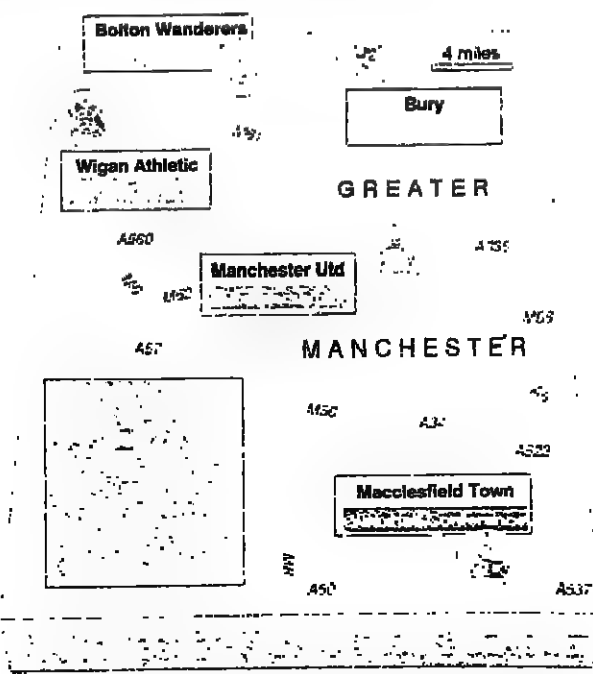
In the second division, Greater Manchester's domination was even more stifling. Bury, whose commercial manager is Neville Neville, the father of the United full backs, Gary and Philip Neville, clinched the title on Saturday, too, with second-half goals from Ronny Jepson and Lenny

Johnrose giving them victory over Millwall.

The runners-up were Stockport County, another team relishing life in the spotlight after years of being forced to play their home games on Friday nights because so many of their fans watched either United or Manchester City on Saturdays, Coca-Cola Cup semi-finalists this season, where they lost narrowly to Middlesbrough, they overhauled Brentford and Luton Town to secure the second automatic promotion spot. The decrepit little stand at the Cheadle End of Edgeley Park has a towering new replacement. They play their home games on Saturdays now, too.

The quartet was completed by the most impressive team of all, Bolton Wanderers, who scored their hundredth goal and their 98th point at Prenton Park yesterday to round off a season that established them as the outstanding team in the first division.

Manchester is not a two-horse town any more. No longer is it a footballing city united.



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lord, the pivot, converted a 60-yarder. However, goals from Dutton and Glasson put Windward ahead again at treasuring-in time.

In the third chuck, Oliver Taylor, the Windward back, stifled a series of Cowdroy Park attacks and, at the end of it, they were still at 4-4.

However, the last half went almost entirely to Cowdroy Park. Bersford found the Windward flags within the first ten seconds and Huidobro smashed home a penalty shot. Then Huidobro slipped through the Windward defence to score.

COWDROY PARK: 1. The Hot Line (Charles Pearson 11-12; 2. Windward (4-3); 3. Lord C. Bousfield (6-3); 4. Back, R. Venn (4-3); 5. Windward (4-3); 6. Windward (4-3); 7. Windward (4-3); 8. Windward (4-3); 9. Windward (4-3); 10. Windward (4-3); 11. Windward (4-3); 12. Windward (4-3); 13. Windward (4-3); 14. Windward (4-3); 15. Windward (4-3); 16. Windward (4-3); 17. Windward (4-3); 18. Windward (4-3); 19. Windward (4-3); 20. Windward (4-3); 21. Windward (4-3); 22. Windward (4-3); 23. Windward (4-3); 24. Windward (4-3); 25. Windward (4-3); 26. Windward (4-3); 27. Windward (4-3); 28. Windward (4-3); 29. Windward (4-3); 30. Windward (4-3); 31. Windward (4-3); 32. Windward (4-3); 33. Windward (4-3); 34. Windward (4-3); 35. Windward (4-3); 36. Windward (4-3); 37. Windward (4-3); 38. Windward (4-3); 39. Windward (4-3); 40. Windward (4-3); 41. Windward (4-3); 42. Windward (4-3); 43. Windward (4-3); 44. Windward (4-3); 45. Windward (4-3); 46. Windward (4-3); 47. Windward (4-3); 48. 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Michael Calvin sees a compelling last act to Brighton's extraordinary tale of survival

Hereford cast adrift in the crying game

Graham Turner sat, empty-eyed, in his tiny office, set in a stairwell under the main stand at Edgar Street. His unsuccessful game-plan, which outlined five key points for each Hereford United player to remember, lay on his desk alongside a score report and an empty scotch tumbler. The good luck cards, which proclaimed "don't worry, be happy", were merely flowers at a pauper's funeral.

Turner winced as a last muffled chorus of "we're staying up", belated to the Three Lions tune by Brighton fans celebrating survival after a 1-1 draw, filtered through the thin walls. Steve Gritt, his opposite number, was still on the pitch, giving countless interviews. "I don't want to imagine how Graham is feeling," he admitted. "It is just too terrible for words."

The stigma of taking a club out of the Football League, in the unique circumstances of what amounted to a relegation play-off between the third division's two worst teams, was etched on Turner's pale face.

He spoke of duty, of dignity, and his determination to resign as Hereford's director of football. The images of despair were too fresh, too fundamental to too many lives, to ignore. "I've enjoyed a lifetime in football, but at a time like this I wonder why I do what I do," he said. "It's my worst day, without a shadow of a doubt."

Memories of Hillsborough, given sharp focus by the campaign launched on behalf of the families of its victims, remind us that it is fatuous to talk of footballing failure in terms of tragedy, but it was impossible to subdue an awful sense of intrusion into private grief. Many, led by the apprentices taking soiled kit to the laundry room, were in floods of tears. Some, like Peter Hill, the Hereford chairman for 20 of its 25 years as a League club, spoke to strangers with the compelling candour of the recently bereaved.

In his case, the analogy was too literal. He stressed: "This is the worst day of my life," and then stopped suddenly. "Well, that's not true," he continued, softly. "My daughter was killed towards the end of last year. My wife died recently." As bizarre as it may seem, in the embarrassed silence which followed I could

not dispel the mental image of the club mascot, a prize Hereford bull. It appeared impassive as it was led around the ground before kick-off but, on closer inspection, it was frowning at the mouth.

In a suitably surreal gesture, Hill, who will refuse to accept Turner's resignation when it is tendered tomorrow, attempted to lighten the mood by taking a brown wig from the inside pocket of his green blazer and placing it on his bald head. "I was going to wear this if we'd stayed up, because it would have reminded me that I had a full head of hair when I took over," he said. "Do you know that until the final whistle I was the longest serving chairman in the Football League? No other idiot wants the job."

Robbie Reinelt, the substitute whose opportunistic 63rd-minute goal completed Brighton's remarkable comeback from the verge of self-destruction, understood such apparently irrational behaviour. He was an apprentice with Aldershot when they left the League due to financial problems in 1992, and was too proud to claim the title in the 18 months it took to find another club.

As he sipped a can of Newcastle Brown Ale, he began to realise what he had done. He assuaged the romantics by revealing that he had scored with a lucky pair of boots purchased by Lisa, his wife of less than a year, but he knew the domestic upheavals he had created in another set of families.

"This is the reality of football at our level," he said, gesturing towards a small huddle of Hereford players being consoled by friends. "On the pitch I'd have done anything to beat them. But off it, we're all the same. We've all got mortgages to pay, children to look after. There is no money around. We're all scrapping and saving."

"We can't all be like Alan Shearer. There are thousands of us who came into the game with the same dreams, who want to be like him; but things are hard. Football can be the best thing in the world, but it can also kick you when you are down."

Edgar Street is the habitat of natural victims. The broken and boarded windows of the Sportsman's Club, at the eastern corner of the ground,



Reinelt turns away in celebration after scoring the equaliser that saved Brighton and condemned Hereford to the Vauxhall Conference



Comfort and joy: Trevor Matthewson, of Hereford, is consoled by supporters as Steve Gritt, the Brighton manager, receives a congratulatory hug



'Football can kick you when you are down'

Restructuring plan to be considered

HEREFORD United could avoid relegation if the Football League accepts a recommendation, to be debated on Thursday, to expand and regionalise the third division by adding 16 teams from the Vauxhall Conference.

sustained himself for 18 months by scouting for Gillingham, and signing on. "I'd always promised myself I'd never take the dole, but there I was, every fortnight. The

worst point was being turned down by Gravesend last summer. Then I really began to wonder whether I'd ever get another job. A few people doubted me, but I always felt I could get us out of trouble. Without belief in football, you're nothing."

Those words were given poignant relevance by the sight of the Hereford captain, David Norton, more than an hour after fans had lifted his limp, distraught body from the turf. He had still to bite his lower lip to prevent himself from crying, but he summoned enough composure to say: "What cracks me up is what this means to others. My

wife was out there, kicking every ball with us. Those fans were with us. They say that out of darkness cometh light, but I don't know..."

His eyes welled up again and, as he walked away, he was consumed in a bear-hug by the club chaplain. "You guys did brilliantly," the Rev Andrew Mottram murmured, but his words were empty. As empty as Graham Turner's eyes.

HEREFORD UNITED (4-3-3) A de Bovi — T. Matthews, D. Norton, J. Brough, B. Sanderson — C. Hargreaves, B. McGorry, R. Warr — A. Agnew, J. Williams, A. Foster. BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION (4-4-2) M. Howard — S. Luck, M. Moore, R. Johnson, J. Humphreys — P. McDermott (capt), R. Harte, S. Munt, K. Mayo, J. Minton, S. Slater (sub), G. Hanson, B. Wood — I. Reid, C. Marshall. Referee: N. Berry.

Macclesfield and McIlroy go through the emotions

THE excited mass of Macclesfield Town supporters brought poignancy to the ebullient celebration of their team's GM Vauxhall Conference triumph after their 4-1 win over Kettering Town at Rockingham Road on Saturday.

Sammy McIlroy, the manager, refusing to be parted from a Nationwide League baseball cap that had been jammed on to his head, was the first name on their lips — but not far behind came those of Arthur Jones and Steve Payne.

Payne, Lincoln in the centre of defence alongside Neil Howarth,

the captain, and an ever-present in the Conference campaign, had been stricken with appendicitis late on Friday night. He will return for the challenges that await next season.

Not so Jones, the former chairman, whose dedication to the club has a worthy memorial in a Moss Rose ground that now needs reconstruction and so ensured the rebuff endured when they won the Conference two years ago.

His suicide last September, and the financial uncertainty that followed, might have destroyed lesser clubs but served instead to unite a

Walter Gammie on an unforgettable day of celebration, tinged with a touch of sadness

loyal, tight-knit core of players behind their gifted and passionate manager.

For the club, the tasks are to bring in new backers with the clout to take them forward and to secure the future of their manager, whose contract runs out next month. For McIlroy, the priorities were a celebration appropriate to a feat he hailed as his greatest triumph and to build upon the nucleus of a team

that has combined style and resilience in equal measure.

It was a tribute to his acumen that it was two recent signings, Peter Davenport and Chris Byrne, who supplied the goals after Macclesfield had been shocked to life by Lynne's headed eighth-minute goal. The start had been delayed by 15 minutes on behalf of Macclesfield's swelling support.

Any Macclesfield wobble was

swiftly stilled as Byrne crossed from the byline and, after Judge had flapped, Davenport, on the line, let the ball run off his body into the net. Byrne's dazzling hair-trick in 20 minutes, a ferocious header from Davenport's corner, a 25-yard left-footer curved to perfection and a headed finish from another corner brought Macclesfield close to an explosion of emotion.

McIlroy raced onto the pitch to scale Byrne's slight shoulders after his first goal. "The referee was very good about it," he said. "He just said he'd never seen me run so fast

in my playing days." Arms punched the air in the directors' box upon the news that Kidderminster had lost 3-1 at Gateshead — the home board swiftly supplied a bottle of champagne. When the supporters got the message, a roar to tingle the spine told McIlroy's men that their season's work had brought its deserved reward.

KETTERING TOWN (3-5-2) A. Judge — D. Tolson, C. Gault, R. Marshall (sub), S. Smith, 45 mins — T. Wilkes, D. Hurren, S. Berry, C. Hurren, J. March — C. Pearson (sub), L. Duckford, 75, N. Lyne (sub), P. Miles, 65. MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2) R. Price — C. Eddy, N. Howarth, D. Timson, M. Bradshaw (sub), D. Gee, 62, P. Davenport (sub), C. Williams, 72, N. Scobie, C. Byrne, S. Wood — J. Bailey, P. Foster. Referee: D. Bryan.

Jones strikes late to deny Bolton a double century

Tranmere Rovers 2
Bolton Wanderers 2

By DAVID MADDOCK

BOLTON Wanderers were looking forward to celebrating a unique double of 100 points and 100 goals in a season. Instead, a goal two minutes into stoppage time by Lee Jones, the Tranmere Rovers forward, transformed the afternoon into one of cruel disappointment and petty recrimination.

Bolton have deserved their little piece of history this season by majestically sweeping all before them in the Nationwide League first division, but they lost concentration right at the death. Jones ran through a gaping hole in the visiting defence to smash an unstoppable volley into the roof of the net, snatched a draw, and leave Bolton stranded on 98 points. It was painful to watch, especially given the time perplexingly added on by John Kirby, the referee. Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, insisted, however, that the disappointment should not detract from his side's achievement.

"The fact that we didn't get a hundred points cannot spoil what we have done this season. We are champions and we did it with four games to go

and that is a magnificent feat which the players can take with them for the rest of their careers", he said.

Todd was angry with the conduct of John Aldridge, the Tranmere player-manager, during what was a surprising emotional match. Aldridge had criticised his opponents earlier in the season and appeared to offer a gesture about Bolton's standards during the game that upset Todd.

"Looking at Tranmere's players you would have thought they were champions when they scored," he said. "Aldridge seemed to signal to our supporters that we will be going straight back down again and that's uncalled for — he has got a lot to learn."



Aldridge playing on

At least the visitors managed the impressive feat of recording 100 goals in their triumphant season. No 99 came after 27 minutes with the best move of the match, when Blake dummed a Taggart through ball and McGinlay lifted his shot over Nixon, the Bolton goalkeeper.

Perhaps roused by the indignation of their manager, the home side responded to earn a penalty when Aldridge was tripped by Branagan, the Bolton goalkeeper. Aldridge stepped up to convert the spot-kick himself after 60 minutes, but it appeared the points he craved were not to be when Jamie Pollock smashed a half-volley into the roof of the net after a Thompson corner.

Aldridge, 38, later confirmed he would not be retiring at the end of the season. "I don't know where it came from that I wouldn't be playing," he said. "I am looking to keep myself available next year if needed. If we have injuries or suspensions I will do my best. It's still going all right, but I will find it difficult to move tomorrow morning."

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-5-1) E. Neeson — T. Thomas, J. McGinlay, A. Thomas, A. Rogers — L. Jones, K. Jones, L. O'Shea, A. Mahon (sub), J. McManus, 74 mins, G. Smith — J. Aldridge. BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2) K. Bannigan (sub), G. Ward, 88, G. Bannigan, G. Tappin, C. Pritchard (sub), J. Stroud, 34, P. Phillips — P. Frimston, J. Pollock, A. Thompson, S. Siskens — N. Blake (sub), J. Jordan, 77, J. McGinlay. Referee: J. Kinsley.

Burns the spectre at limited feast

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

Paolo di Canio, said of the chief executive's actions: "I think Fergus McCann made a mistake. Tommy Burns is a good manager."

The Italian, with a suspension imminent, has played his last match of the season and, after donating his jersey to the crowd, he indicated that this might also have been his last appearance for Celtic. Di Canio is a man of abundant emotions and it would be reckless to assume that he will definitely seek a transfer.

Nonetheless, McCann now

needs to present the forward and his admirers with an enticing vision of the future. The man who rescued the club from bankruptcy will feel that his decision over Burns was correct, but it is not enough to be right. He must also persuade 40,000 people to renew their season tickets.

On Saturday, he had little with which to charm them. McCann could only set a structure for the club and, while it may yet prove to be wise, policy documents have never yet been known to excite mankind. Celtic are to have a general manager, who will deal with contracts, transfers and administrative matters, and who will supervise a head coach.

The continental model, however, may bemuse possible British candidates for these posts. Bobby Robson, in any case, appears to have ruled himself out of the reckoning, having decided that it may be better to see out the second half of his two-year contract

with Barcelona. If a satisfactory role can be decided upon, Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, might yet be appointed at Celtic.

The newcomer will find a few talented players on the staff, but their gifts seem to be accompanied by grumbles. Jorge Cadete scored the first and third goals yesterday and went on to reiterate that he is unhappy with a contract that he signed eagerly only a year ago. Di Canio put Celtic 2-1 ahead, with a turn, feint and stylish shot.

Hibernian briefly enjoyed parity, after Lee Power scored his first goal for the club, but careless defending and a lack of guile exacerbated fears that they will yet finish ninth in the Bell's Scottish League premier division and so find themselves engulfed in a play-off with Aldrie, against whom they have a poor record, to avoid relegation. Habitués of Easter Road will scoff at the idea that it is Celtic who are in crisis.

Bradford's escape spiced by Pepper's two goals

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRADFORD City, who 12 months ago were toasting a Wembley victory and promotion to the Nationwide League first division via the play-offs, had equal cause for celebration yesterday as they ensured their survival on the last afternoon of the league season.

Thousands of supporters ran on to the pitch at Valley Parade after Bradford's 3-0 victory over Queens Park Rangers had condemned Grimsby Town to the second division, despite their even more emphatic home win, against Southend United.

Nigel Pepper, whose goals from midfield made his purchase for £100,000 from York City two months ago inspirational, scored twice, but refused to take all the credit for Bradford's recovery. "It was a team effort," he said. "We said on Thursday (before the victory over Charlton Athletic) that we felt we had to win both our games and commitment and spirit has got us through."

Chris Kamara, the Bradford manager, is already looking to next season. "Financially we are in a great position and there is no reason why we can't do well," he said. "The last two weeks have been very difficult, but the players have shown a great attitude and it is all about what those players do on the pitch."

Geoffrey Richmond, the chairman, was equally delighted. "Chris got us promotion in the most unlikely circumstances last season," he said. "He's a very popular manager, and has had 99 per cent support from the fans. He has my fervent support too — but that shouldn't sound like the dreaded vote of confidence."

At Blundell Park, where Grimsby's 4-0 defeat of Southend — their biggest of the season — proved inconsequential, there were a number of

PLAY-OFFS

PLAY-OFF MATCHES: Crystal Palace v Wolverhampton; Exeter City v Ipswich. First-leg matches, to be played May 11; second leg May 14. PLAY-OFF MATCHES: Crewe v Luton, Brentford v Barnet. First-leg matches to be played May 11, second leg May 14. PLAY-OFF MATCHES: Chester v Swans. First-leg matches to be played May 11, second leg May 14.

* Palace match may switch to May 10 to avoid clash with Wimbledon's home Premier League match.

less good-natured pitch invasions, with one player, Tommy Widdington, ripping a banner out of the hands of two fans. Kenny Swain, the caretaker manager, later said that he would be applying for the position on a full-time basis, despite relegation.

With the four play-off positions already filled, the programme yesterday merely allowed the contestants to boost morale. None of the quarter managed a victory, however.

Wolverhampton Wanderers, whose poor home form cost them any chance of automatic promotion, were beaten 1-0 at Molineux by Portsmouth — their eighth league defeat in front of their own supporters. They will play Crystal Palace in the play-off semi-finals. Palace completing their programme with a 1-1 draw against Port Vale at Selhurst Park during which Dougie Freedman, their Scotland Under-21 striker, was sent off for violent conduct.

The other semi-final will be between Ipswich Town, who conceded their first goal in 531 minutes during a 1-1 home draw with Birmingham City, and Sheffield United, who figured in a drab goalless draw against Charlton at The Valley.

The final relegation issue in the Vauxhall Conference was settled on Saturday when Bath City joined Bromsgrove Rovers and Altrincham in the drop. Bath beat Northwich Victoria 3-2, but discovered that Halifax Town, the only team that they could catch, had defeated Stevenage Borough 4-2.

Cheltenham Town made sure of their elevation to the Conference when a goalless draw away to Burton Albion was sufficient for them to secure the runners-up position in the Dr Martens League premier division, behind Gresley Rovers.

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Bradford Bulls brought down by self-destructive tendencies in centenary final at Wembley

Martyn and St Helens rise to cup challenge

Bradford Bulls 22
St Helens 32

By Christopher Irvine

BROKEN spirits can be repaired more quickly than broken bones, but Bradford Bulls were fractured in mind and body by the centenary Challenge Cup final at Wembley on Saturday. A week before they meet St Helens again in an awfully short recovery period, especially for self-inflicted wounds to head.

As ruthless as St Helens were in consigning Bradford to a second successive set of Silk Cut losers' medals, they were thankful for the bullet Bradford aimed at themselves. Damaged bones in Robbie Paul's right foot were sadly symbolic of shattered ambitions on a wasteful afternoon.

As well as Paul's injury, Sonny Nickle broke his arm, which leaves Bradford struggling for an important game at Old Trafford on Sunday. Either the Bulls will move four points clear, or St Helens will take over the leadership of the Super League.



Martyn savours the moment

When they could have been 12 points clear, after a compelling opening half that took up the threads of the classic final between the sides last year, Bradford found themselves 16-10 in arrears. In the last act of the first period, five tacklers could not prevent Hammond redeeming himself for the reckless pass that presented Loughlin with an interception try by thrusting one hand out to plant the ball on the line.

In a mournful dressing-room, Bradford reflected on that score and rued missed chances by Spruce and Peacock. Within a few minutes of the restart, however, they were broken, as Tommy Martyn put in a remarkable tack to up-end Peacock in full flight to the line and crafted a try by Joynr that put St Helens beyond reach.

Bobbie Goulding got a handful of votes but Martyn, the other half of the double act, was an overwhelming Lance Todd Trophy winner. He was the complete performance, creating and scoring tries two off the top pokes by Goulding that owed something to

telepathy in knowing Martyn's outstretched hands would be there as well as stopping them.

In the 14 months since spending a year out for a knee reconstruction, Martyn has come to typify an unquenchable St Helens team spirit. Alongside Goulding, some of the instinctive attacking qualities have rubbed off and when Goulding was banned for six minutes for his dismissal in the fourth-round defeat of Wigan, Martyn took up the creative responsibility with assurance.

Although they are only the fifth club in the postwar era to defend the Cup successfully, talk of another Wigan dynasty was dismissed by Shaun McRae. The St Helens coach noted that standards overall had now evened out. Rather than a collection of astonishing talents, St Helens is a collective of astonishingly committed individuals, whose strength is their belief in themselves.

Although Bradford kept a tight rein on Paul Newlove, they reckoned without his bravura defensive display. In rolling Ekoku away from the line, Newlove brought off the score of the day. Although he limped back on, in a desperate act to try to reverse the tide, Paul's agony on the sidelines was more than just physical as he saw Bradford opened up by first Joynr and then Sullivan.

The fact that Tomlinson's try, in reply, contained a clear obstruction, compensated for Sullivan's score not being properly grounded. Not that Bradford had any cause for complaint. They were brought down to earth last year under a fusillade of high balls by Goulding. This time, his angled kicks into the in-goal area were low and awkward, but perfectly placed for the predatory Martyn.

The try that Peacock did manage was Bradford at their flat-out, attacking best. Bitter concentration by the Australian centre would have brought him another. It was not to be. Despite succumbing to a late try by Lowe, St Helens were, baringly resolute, almost Wigan-like, in an anticlimactic second half.

It was a fitting and appropriate touch by Goulding to let Joynr lift the Cup. Until the final, he had missed all but 40 minutes against Wigan because of his suspension. "In the changing-room on my own, after I was sent off, I had my doubts about today," Goulding said, "but somehow I knew the players would pull me through."

SCORES: Bradford Bulls: Three: Peacock, Loughlin, Tomlinson; Lowe, Goulding; Martyn, Sullivan, Goulding. St Helens: Five: Martyn, Sullivan, Goulding, Peacock, Lowe. St Helens: Five: Martyn, Sullivan, Goulding, Peacock, Lowe. St Helens: Five: Martyn, Sullivan, Goulding, Peacock, Lowe.

ST HELENS: A. Peacock, D. Arnold, A. Hogg, P. Newlove, A. Sullivan, T. Martyn, R. Goulding, A. Peacock, K. Cunningham, J. O'Neill, J. Joynr, D. McKeown, A. Henderson, S. McRae, J. Peacock, V. Mitchell, A. Northey, C. Morley, R. McKeown, S. Cunningham (Wicks).

ST HELENS: A. Peacock, D. Arnold, A. Hogg, P. Newlove, A. Sullivan, T. Martyn, R. Goulding, A. Peacock, K. Cunningham, J. O'Neill, J. Joynr, D. McKeown, A. Henderson, S. McRae, J. Peacock, V. Mitchell, A. Northey, C. Morley, R. McKeown, S. Cunningham (Wicks).



McVey, of St Helens, is brought to earth by the Bradford defence during the Challenge Cup final at Wembley on Saturday. Photographs: Clive Brunskill/Allsport

Pain fails to mask strength of Bulls' market

Rob Hughes finds much to admire on a journey along the information superhighway that rugby league has become

Whatever the code, triumph has always been the name of the game at Wembley Stadium. So on Saturday, for the centenary rugby league Challenge Cup, the attention deservedly fell on Tommy Martyn. This typical, tenacious Northern lad, his knee and his meaning in life rebuilt after surgery 14 months ago, had produced two tries, two magnificent tackles to combine with his captain, Bobbie Goulding, to retain the Cup for St Helens.

No equivocation, no argument whatever there. Yet it is in the face of defeat that we see the core of men and two dejected figures in Bradford yellow taught more about life on Saturday evening. Robbie Paul, just turned 21, a New Zealander captaining Bradford to their second successive losing Challenge Cup final, had sustained a suspected broken right foot, fears that were dispelled only yesterday, but was unbreakable in spirit.

After he had limped off for treatment in the 47th minute and before he could return to compete through pain 12 minutes later, the heart had been torn out of

Bradford, the dozen points that St Helens scored had swayed the match beyond recall. Yet this young man, determined to climb the steps and receive his consolation medal from John Prescott, the new Deputy Prime Minister, delayed even further his visit to hospital to come dutifully into the interview room.

A year ago he was praised as the first player in a Challenge Cup final to score three tries. "There were a few accolades to soften the blow last year, mate," he said. "This year? Nothing. But we're a strong club, we'll get over this."

Last year, he added, had been the biggest game and the biggest disappointment of his life. As a boy in New Zealand he had looked at Wembley on television and imagined himself scoring tries there. Now, without the prize, with dejection at his heart, he could distinguish between levels of pain. "There's a strange little game that you play, a mental

thing. A lot of times you push past pain, you get a shot of adrenalin. When you want to be part of the game you can't feel the pain."

Paul Loughlin, the 29-year-old, 17st Bradford player, had been to Wembley five times, had lost three finals as a St Helens player and now was beaten by his former club for the second successive year. It was from his silence, his statuesque stillness in the moment of defeat, that you could feel the meaning of pain.

The St Helens players, some having grown up with Loughlin, came one by one to him. Few knew what to do other than to offer a handshake, or put a palm to his shoulder. He is, by repute, a funny man, one who leaves dressing-rooms in fits when he laughs before the punch-line of his own joke. He is hardly a failure, for in scoring a try against St Helens on Saturday, he became the first player in six years to score a try in every round of the Cup.

And yet, with the cheers for a club that for 13 years had been a part of his life, Loughlin could not even look at the trophy as it was handed to his former team. He stood erect, hands on hips, staring into the overcast sky.

The Challenge Cup, minted for £60 by Fattorini Silversmiths of Bradford, has stubbornly refused to go back there, to the cheerless Odsal Stadium, since 1949.

Yet Bradford, top of the league and at the very forefront of rugby league's buoyant charge towards the millennium, has embraced the changes in the game more profitably than any other. Still tenacious, still compelling, rugby league has disguised its brutish appeal in a coating of Disneyland.

You might think that inflicting American-style hype, putting the silly name Bulls to Bradford, would alienate the men who have followed their club against the great tide of association football. It seems not: the manner in which

rugby league has maintained its combat, yet is selling itself shamelessly to the young, has trebled Bradford's weekly attendance to 15,000 and galvanised a marketing turnover to more than £500,000 per season.

Perhaps sports that think themselves superior should come and learn. The razzmatazz brings a family audience, one that behaves itself at Wembley, without compromising the essence of the game. The new rules that keep the sport flowing to a pitch that demands total concentration from players and spectators, is presented with total information. When Goulding kicked one of his conversions, the Tannoy announced immediately informed everyone that this was his thousandth point in 90 games in little more than three years with St Helens.

The information league embraces two things real men who win and lose in the proper manner and new spectators, whose hunger to be entertained and informed is well met. Is football, which hardly set the stadium alight four days previously, too arrogant to learn?

Bristol extract small comfort from victory

Bristol 20
West Hartlepool 17

By David Hands

WHAT Bristol's old players, who assembled for lunch at the Memorial Ground yesterday, made of their professional successors must remain unknown and probably unprintable. This last knockings of the Courage Clubs Championship was entirely unworthy of two established clubs.

That the result mattered not a jot is hardly the point. Those footballers enough to brave the rain deserved better; what they received was a scrambled mess, in which a red card for Gerald Cordle, the West Hartlepool wing, for stamping, was the final straw.

Nor could Bristol take much encouragement from victory into the first leg of the play-off against Bedford at Goldington Road on Wednesday. At one stage, West Hartlepool may have hugged the thought of a final first-division victory to take with them into victory. Though Temperley drove over and Tainton, at the fourth attempt, finally found the goalposts, the visitors nibbled away at Bristol's lead through Chris John's kicking. Two penalties before the interval and a third early in

the second half gave West the slimmest of leads but, when John also dropped a goal, the heady possibility of only their fourth league victory this season loomed. Cordle's dismissal and the consequent penalty, however, allowed Bristol to work Martin over and reclaim the lead.

Tued's try gave Bristol enough of a cushion to survive West's late rally, when Ions burst over for a score that may have earned a degree of respectability, but nothing more.

SCORES: Bristol: Three: Temperley, Martin, Ions; Conversion: Burt. Penalty goal: Tainton. West Hartlepool: Two: Ions. Penalty goal: C. John (8). Dropped goal: C. John.

BRISTOL: P. Hall, D. Tait, S. Martin, M. Denney, D. Yapp, M. Tainton, D. Davidson, D. Jenkins, M. Hoggan, K. Furlan, D. Corbally, S. Shaw, P. Adams, C. Shaw, N. Temperley. Tainton replaced by P. Burke (54m); Davidson replaced by R. Jones (55); Shaw replaced by A. Browning (64); Ions replaced by S. McConville (79); Hall temporarily replaced by S. Morgan (88-79).

WEST HARTLEPOOL: M. Shaw, S. John, J. Denney, I. Denney, G. Cordle, C. John, M. Redmond, J. Palmer, A. Peacock, D. Bennett, H. Hood, D. Mitchell, G. Rowlands, J. Ions, I. Morgan. Peacock replaced by M. Kennedy (51m); Palmer replaced by M. de Jongh (64).

RELATES: A. Rowlands (Berkshire)

Pontypridd secure title role

Gerald Davies on how the Welsh League crown was claimed

TO THE strains of their trademark chant, "Ole, ole, Pon-tee, Pon-tee", Pontypridd won the Welsh League title with an ultimately comfortable 52-24 victory away to Bridgend on Saturday. In front of a large contingent of their own supporters, the most ardent and conspicuously cheerful in the land, they captured the honour that they cherished most.

Last season Pontypridd won the Swale Cup, which presents a different kind of challenge with the prospect of sudden elimination. The league, on the other hand, rewards consistency, a quality that is more in line with the resilient mentality and hard-earned durability of a club that lies at the head of the Rhondda valleys. There is nothing flash-in-the-pans about Pontypridd.

After coming so near so often in the past few years, during which time they have shown a greater consistency than any other Welsh club only to see, at the last moment, the accolade elude them, the 1997 title is deservedly theirs. They have two more matches to play this week, as have Swansea, who are in second position, but Pontypridd cannot be overhauled. Their bonus point on Saturday made sure of that.

Their celebrations might have started earlier than Saturday but, because of the vagaries of the bonus points system, they have been chased to this late stage by other clubs. In fact, Pontypridd have won five more matches to date than their nearest rivals, which should, by rights, have put them clear some considerable time ago. They have only lost two matches away from home; their

record at Sardin Road has remained solidly intact.

Pontypridd are not a stern team of grim efficiency in the way that they are regularly portrayed. They are a team that provides rugby of a fine and enterprising quality. This is their regular fare.

And, as they have shown in the past couple of months, they do not rely solely on their captain, Neil Jenkins, to kick goals. Pontypridd have been without their goalkicking stand-off half since he broke his arm against England in March. This, the pundits felt, was to be the club's undoing. Not so. More than anything, Pontypridd have proved themselves quite the opposite of the one-man team that they were thought to be.

Furthermore, their loyal band of supporters must surely be the most richly rewarded and respected of any club in the land. When they drew Bath in the Heineken Cup, which was an additional feature to those published, the card-carrying membership was not asked to pay an extra charge. This community spirit and traditional ethos lies at the heart of the club's success; prudent housekeeping of the balance sheet is their way forward, not the expectation of a visit from a thick-walleted flash Harry. A development youth programme, which means that they

have 13 players moving forward, and not a quick-fix rugby itinerant, is the fundamental philosophy that they believe underpins their future. They must hope that these sound principles will continue to hold them in good stead when there are so many predators elsewhere.

Gareth Thomas had given Bridgend a justified lead with a try in the first ten minutes. Pontypridd seemed to be struggling but, by half-time, the visitors had composed themselves and scored four splendid tries through Manley, Martin Williams, Morgan and Jason Lewis, which were all converted by Cormack. This gave them a commanding lead but, by the twelfth minute of the second half, only four points separated the two teams after tries by Michalak and Andrew Williams, with Durston converting both and adding a penalty.

The visitors recovered their composure, though, to score four more tries to secure the prize that they had not won since the 1977-78 season, when such championships existed only in an unofficial form and were a product of the imagination of sports editors.

SCORES: Bridgend: Three: Thomas, Michalak, Williams. Conversions: Durston. (3) Penalty goal: Durston. Pontypridd: Four: Morgan (2), J. Lewis (2), Manley, Williams, Lloyd. Ford. Conversions: Cormack (6).

BRIDGEND: C. Bracken, S. Greenaway, K. Ellis, L. Davies, G. Thomas, A. Durston, G. Owens, J. Maynard, C. Fenn, I. Greenaway, A. Williams, C. Wood, C. Stephens, C. Michalak, J. Farrow. Davies replaced by J. Gail (44m); Morgan replaced by J. Parrell (55).

PONTYPRIDD: P. Morgan, D. Manley, J. Lewis, S. Lewis, P. Ford, C. Cormack, P. Jones, M. Eyrone, P. John, A. Williams, M. Williams, M. Rowley, G. Prosser, M. Spiller, M. Lloyd. Phil Jones replaced by J. Evans (78); Michalak replaced by A. Gail (78); Phil Jones replaced by M. de Jongh (78); Williams replaced by P. Robert (80m).

Rugby's new partnership gets off to bright start

Thanet Wanderers 21
Doncaster 13

By Barry Trowbridge

NPI, the pensions specialist who, at the eleventh hour, provided trophies for the winners of the Rugby Football Union's intermediate and junior knockout competitions, could not have wished for a better introduction to the game.

Kim Bell, the head of market communications for NPI, said at the launch: "The sponsorship is an exciting move towards NPI developing a new partnership within rugby." Thanks to the efforts of Crewe and Nantwich, Doncaster, Harpenden and Thanet Wanderers at Twickenham on Saturday, that partnership must surely come to fruition.

Three weeks of competitive inactivity after a sub-par performance in their final London II South game, while Doncaster were reeling off five matches in 15 days, hardly seemed the ideal preparation for Thanet but, with determination that mirrored their semi-final victory over Sudbury, they took the senior of the trophies with pride.

Part of Doncaster's success this season can be explained by the appointment of Kevin Westgarth, the former West Hartlepool lock, as their youth development officer and player-coach. Less than ten minutes into the second half, though, with his side 10-3 ahead, Westgarth left the field with a damaged Achilles tendon and

Thanet's problems seemed to be reduced to manageable proportions.

Doncaster's lineup options were reduced and, within minutes, Mike Pond set up the move on halfway that saw Peter Macaulay chip over the defence and win the scrum for the touchdown to blast Thanet back into contention: then, retrieving his cause after missing the conversion, Gareth Redmond put them 11-10 up with a penalty goal into the wind.

A penalty goal on the hour by David S. Fairclough proved only a hiccup, as the Thanet defence tightened and eventually provided the interception that saw Redmond storm into the Doncaster half with five minutes remaining, before releasing Simon Harris, then Mario Meyer, for the winning score.

To NPI's delight, it was even closer in the junior clubs' final. Having led 13-0 and 24-17, with two minutes remaining, Crewe and Nantwich were helpless as Dean Ford converted Dave Talbot's try three minutes into added time, then suffered more as Simon Smith nipped in under the posts eight minutes into extra time to secure the trophy for Harpenden.

SCORES: Thanet Wanderers: Three: Macaulay, Meyer. Conversion: Redmond. Penalty goal: Fairclough. Penalty goal: D. S. Fairclough (2).

THANET WANDERERS: G. Redmond, E. Staley, P. Macaulay, M. Coyne, M. Meyer, G. Harper, J. Ward, R. Gault, C. Smith, I. Corbett, A. Michael, P. Hughes, G. Hoggie, C. Manson, D. Langley. Stokes replaced by M. Pond (41m); Michael replaced by S. Harris (61).

DONCASTER: J. Ellis, D. E. Fairclough, D. S. Fairclough, S. Manson, P. Harrison, P. Matthews, A. Pizzolo, D. Sowden, N. Westgarth, C. Venn, R. Senior, M. Bailey, K. Weaugh, D. Senior, M. Loughborough. Westgarth replaced by D. Clarke (48); Fairclough replaced by J. Preece (79).

6.45- 1, Cooper Mine (Event 104); 2.

Select your team to win £10,000



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
AA EQUITY & LAW

ENDORSED BY
ECB

ALL-ROUNDER

Code
Name

BOWLERS

Code
Name

BATSMEN

Code
Name

HOW TO PLAY

Mark the start of summer by playing Interactive Team Cricket (ITC), the only game officially endorsed by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and which offers a first prize of £10,000. This season the game has been improved to reflect the attraction of the Ashes series and includes one-day matches for the first time. The Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) is also supporting ITC by providing the weekly and monthly prizes. Pick the team that you think will accumulate the most runs and wickets in all first-class and one-day matches this season. More than 340 players, all registered with the ECB, have been listed in the following groups: batsmen, all-rounders, wicketkeepers and bowlers. There are two secondary groups: overseas players and rising stars (promising players as selected by *The Times*).

You must select a team of 11 players

5 BATSMEN 1 ALL-ROUNDER 1 WICKETKEEPER 4 BOWLERS

Each team must include two batsmen from category A and three from category B and two bowlers from each of category A and B. Pick one all-rounder and one wicketkeeper. You must include one overseas player (but no more than one) and one rising star (but no more than one). No player can be picked twice.

You may enter by post, fax or telephone. The closing date for postal entries is Wednesday May 7, for fax and telephone entries Tuesday May 6.

Scores will be measured by runs (the aggregate runs scored by all 11 players); wickets (the wickets taken by all 11 players) and catches and stumpings (made by all 11 players). Each run will count as one point, each catch as 20 points and each stumping as 40 points. This summer, Cornhill Test matches between England and Australia will offer double points. The total of runs, wickets and dismissals will represent the team's total team score. The team with the highest aggregate score after the final matches on September 21 will win first prize.

The first-class matches that will count in ITC are Cornhill Test matches, Britannic Assurance county championship matches, Telford Challenge matches between the counties and the Australians, matches between the counties and Pakistan A, and between the counties and the Universities. One-day matches also count this summer: Texaco Trophy one-day internationals, Axa Life League, NatWest Trophy and Benson and Hedges Cup. All other matches do not count. Teams start to score points from Wednesday May 7. ITC has a transfer system which allows you to change players during the season. You may replace a bowler with another bowler, but you must keep to the format, i.e. a bowler from category A must be replaced by one from category A. The number of transfer allowances depends on when you register. For example, if you register from now until the end of May, your team will be allowed 10 transfers. When you use these transfers is up to you. You may decide to transfer five in one week, or two a month. You may use as many or as little as you please but only up to your team allowance. If you register in June, your team will be allocated eight transfers. A July registration allows you six transfers, an August registration four and a September registration two.

All transfers must be made within a transfer period and will become effective for matches commencing in the following transfer period. Transfer periods are weekly, from Wednesday 00.01am to Tuesday midnight. The transfer line will open on Wednesday May 21. Follow your team's progress every Wednesday in *The Times*. First prize is £10,000. The weekly winner (a week is deemed to be from Wednesday to Tuesday inclusive) and the monthly winner (the first month is from May 7-31, thereafter each calendar month) will win prizes including a pair of tickets to England v Australia Test matches, exclusive signed memorabilia of past and present England players, and a signed first edition of the PCA Yearbook. Monthly winners also receive a cash prize of £2500.

WICKETKEEPER

Code
Name

HOW TO ENTER

Entries registering by telephone on 0891 405088 (44 990 100 395 for the Republic of Ireland) using a special long-distance card with "and 4 keys are touch-tone. They will be open on the recorded message which will ask for your team name (batsmen, all-rounder, wicketkeeper, bowler) and your PIN (a 10-digit Personal Identification Number). The entrant will be asked to give the name of their team (in characters) followed by their name, address and telephone number. They will then be given a 10-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) as confirmation of their entry which they should keep with a record of their team details as no confirmation will be sent by post.

The telephone lines are open now and will be open 24 hours a day until Tuesday May 6. Telephone calls will cost 50p per minute and will last approximately six minutes. Transfers may only be made by telephone.

Those who register by post using the panel on this page will receive a letter confirming their team and Personal Identification Number (PIN). Each application (photocopies are not acceptable) must be accompanied by a cheque for £2.50 payable to The Times ITC and sent to: The Times ITC, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 1ZZ to arrive by Wednesday May 7. Entries from outside the United Kingdom (not including the Republic of Ireland) must include a cheque for £10.

To register by fax, complete the entry form and send your credit card details for the £2.50 entry fee to 0650 600506 (44 171 649 1714 from outside the United Kingdom). Entries from outside the United Kingdom (not including the Republic of Ireland) must include credit card details to the value of £10. Calls cost 49p per minute.

0891 405088
Calls cost 50p per minute.
Lines open 24 hours a day.

TEAM NAME: (up to 18 characters)

Player details (see page 38)

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Code	Player (county)	Runs	Wkts	Points
Category A				
001	C J Adams (Derbyshire)	1742	0	1742
002	G F Archer (Notts)	918	3	978
003	M A Atherton (Lancashire)	963	1	963
004	C W J Athey (Sussex)	1091	0	1091
005	B Bailey (Derbyshire)	1254	2	1254
006	K J Barnett (Derbyshire)	1456	12	1626
007	D J Bicknell (Surrey)	969	16	1269
008	G S Blewett (Australia)	—	—	—
009	D C Boon (Durham)	1502	6	1562
010	P D Bowler (Somerset)	1226	3	1286
011	A D Brown (Surrey)	555	0	555
012	H M Butt (Surrey)	1504	7	1744
013	P C Collyer (Gloucestershire)	1563	4	1623
014	J P Crawley (Lancashire)	1102	0	1102
015	K M Curran (Northants)	1242	11	1462
016	G G Elliott (Australia)	—	—	—
017	N H Fairbrother (Lancs)	1068	0	1068
018	J E R Gailan (Lancashire)	1156	18	1476
019	M W Gatting (Middlesex)	901	0	901
020	G A Good (Durham)	1846	9	1936
021	M L Hayden (Hampshire)	—	—	—
022	D L Hamp (Warwickshire)	405	4	485
023	A Hick (Hampshire)	1525	13	1655
024	A J Hobbie (Surrey)	1252	12	1372
025	N Hussain (Essex)	1386	0	1386
026	S P James (Gloucestershire)	1786	0	1786
027	M P Jones (Derbyshire)	1502	6	1562
028	J H Kallis (Middlesex)	128	8	248
029	N V Knight (Warwickshire)	1196	0	1196
030	J N Latham (Hampshire)	1163	0	1163
031	N Latham (Hampshire)	1510	0	1510
032	G D Lloyd (Lancashire)	1194	1	1214
033	M B Loe (Northants)	1048	0	1048
034	M P Maynard (Gloucestershire)	1610	0	1610
035	A McShane (Yorkshire)	999	0	999
036	R R Montgomery (Northants)	1178	0	1178
037	T M Moody (Worcestershire)	1427	37	2167
038	H Morris (Gloucestershire)	1502	6	1562
039	M D Moran (Yorkshire)	961	0	961
040	T L Penney (Warwickshire)	1295	0	1295
041	M R Ramakrishna (Middlesex)	1441	3	1441
042	R T Robinson (Notts)	1302	2	1302
043	P V Simmons (Leics)	1244	56	2394
044	M J Slater (Yorkshire)	—	—	—
045	B F Smith (Leicestershire)	1243	0	1243
046	R Smith (Hampshire)	1361	26	1361
047	A J Stewart (Surrey)	966	0	966
048	M A Taylor (Australia)	—	—	—
049	G P Thorpe (Surrey)	1569	2	1609
050	M P Vaughan (Yorkshire)	1161	17	1301
051	T R Ward (Kent)	1292	2	1292
052	M E Waugh (Australia)	—	—	—
053	S R Waugh (Australia)	—	—	—
054	A P Wells (Kent)	1206	0	1206
055	J Wells (Leicestershire)	1351	26	1351
056	W P C Weston (Worcestershire)	1389	0	1389
057	J J Whitaker (Leicestershire)	1093	0	1093
Category B				
058	D A Blanken (Durham)	328	5	428
059	D Byas (Yorkshire)	353	0	353
060	M E Cassar (Derbyshire)	—	—	—
061	G R Cowdrey (Kent)	529	1	529
062	R J Curdrie (Gloucestershire)	252	0	252
063	T S Curtis (Worcestershire)	362	2	362
064	A Dale (Gloucestershire)	690	12	930
065	J A Daley (Durham)	477	0	477
066	R J Dawson (Gloucestershire)	141	1	141
067	M P Downes (Yorkshire)	337	2	377
068	A W Evans (Gloucestershire)	—	—	—
069	A Flintoff (Northants)	2	0	2
070	A Fordham (Northants)	502	0	502

Code	Player (county)	1990 Runs	Wkts	Points total
071	D P Fulton (Kent)	882	1	872
072	A P Grayson (Essex)	930	18	1259
073	K Greenfield (Sussex)	916	0	916
074	A Habib (Leicestershire)	792	0	792
075	H C Harries (Somerset)	709	0	709
076	P J Hardon (Somerset)	676	1	696
077	J C Harrison (Middlesex)	—	—	—
078	A N Hayhurst (Derbyshire)	254	0	254
079	D R Haynes (Worcestershire)	—	—	—
080	D R Hewson (Gloucestershire)	—	—	—
081	A E Hibbert (Essex)	—	—	—
082	T P Hodgson (Essex)	—	—	—
083	P L Holloway (Somerset)	535	7	675
084	W J House (Kent)	—	—	—
085	S Kufon (Durham)	812	0	812
086	P Johnson (Nottinghamshire)	980	1	1000
087	M Keach (Hampshire)	733	0	733
088	W S Kendall (Hampshire)	1045	2	1085
089	G J Kermis (Surrey)	3	0	3
090	R A Kettleborough (Yorkshire)	—	—	—
091	A Klen (Australia)	—	—	—
092	W G Khan (Warwickshire)	736	0	736
093	D A Leathardale (Worcestershire)	539	11	759
094	N J Leatham (Sussex)	903	3	963
095	A Radford (Sussex)	866	4	1036
096	N L Long (Kent)	763	11	983
097	M A Lynch (Gloucestershire)	563	0	563
098	G J Macmillan (Leicestershire)	201	2	211
099	M R May (Derbyshire)	958	4	1038
100	J C McKeown (Lancashire)	—	—	—
101	A Metcalfe (Notts)	771	0	771
102	A Metcalfe (Middlesex)	—	—	—
103	S P Moller (Warwickshire)	903	0	903
104	A J Miles (Warwickshire)	429	0	429
105	J E Morris (Durham)	429	0	429
106	N Newson (Sussex)	234	1	254
107	D P O'Leary (Warwickshire)	863	0	863
108	K E Owen (Derbyshire)	499	0	499
109	K A Parsons (Somerset)	402	2	448
110	S D Peters (Essex)	737	0	737
111	R P Pollard (Nottinghamshire)	881	0	737
112	J C Pooley (Middlesex)	881	0	881
113	M J Powell (Warwickshire)	—	—	—
114	P J Pridgen (Essex)	959	0	959
115	A Radford (Sussex)	866	4	959
116	K R Rao (Sussex)	—	—	—
117	J D Ratcliffe (Surrey)	494	5	534
118	D J Roberts (Northants)	736	0	736
119	D J Roberts (Essex)	736	0	736
120	A S Rollins (Derbyshire)	1101	5	1101
121	M A Roseberry (Durham)	744	0	744
122	D J Sales (Nottinghamshire)	260	0	260
123	O A Shah (Middlesex)	212	1	232
124	P J Shaddy (Leicestershire)	866	4	1036
125	A Singh (Warwickshire)	713	0	713
126	E Smith (Kent)	579	0	579
127	N J Speak (Durham)	579	0	579
128	K R Spink (Worcestershire)	111	36	1321
129	A S Sproston (Leicestershire)	443	3	503
130	J J Sutcliffe (Leicestershire)	443	3	503
131	A J Swann (Northants)	—	—	—

CRICKET

Stars of the future run into growing conflict of interest

AN ELITE group of England's young cricketers is the subject of an intensifying dispute between counties and country. The issue is whether such precocious talents would be better employed playing county cricket than age-group internationals. The counties, who naturally promote this idea, are increasingly agitated that official policy seems otherwise.

At the head of the discontent are Surrey, where officials feel that their ground-breaking decision to do without an overseas player this season, in order to encourage the development of Alex Tudor and Ben Hollis, deserves better recognition than the insistence that both teenagers should miss most of August in order to play under-19 internationals against Zimbabwe.

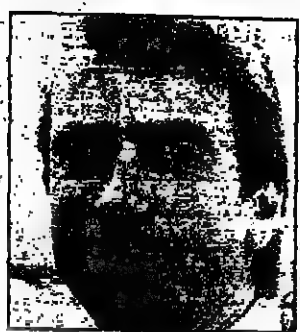
Paul Sheldon, the club's chief executive, believes that an injustice may be done to the players, as well as his team, if the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) holds its line on the issue. And he has a powerful point. Tudor and Hollis have, surely, progressed too far, too quickly to benefit from playing youth cricket against anything short of the strongest opposition.

The under-19 programme forms part of what the ECB calls its development of excellence. Laudable concept, too, so long as it is loyal to its title, and the exceptional young cricketers who grow out of their peer group are acknowledged and accommodated. As with any educational process, rare brilliance should not be held back.

Similar arguments are being put by Northamptonshire, who stand to lose David Sales to national duty, and Middlesex, where Owais Shah and David Nash are the players involved. All of these are second-year under-19s but, up to now, none of the counties has been encouraged to believe that the ECB will relent.

Shah is only 16 and still in school in Leicestershire, where he is about to take his A-levels. He will not be available for

ALAN LEE



Championship Commentary

Middlesex until late June and Mike Gatting, now an England selector as well as the county captain, has asked to keep him thereafter, pointing out that, as he has already toured Australia with England A, another season with the under-19s could be retrospective.

This is a delicate issue that was raised by Northamptonshire last July, when Sales became the first batsman ever to make a double-century on his championship debut. He was immediately spirited away to play against New Zealand under-19s, to the irritation of John Emburey, his county coach.

Sales remains eligible to play in the Zimbabwe series and Steve Corderale, the Northamptonshire chief executive, expands on the problem: "John had a word with the Board last year because he felt David's best interests were not being served. To be honest, it was disruptive for all concerned here, and this clearly affects other members of the squad as well as the selected individual. If whoever replaces David does well, is it fair he should then stand aside to make way for him when he is available again?"

As a club, we had always supported the principle of youngsters playing for the county when selected, but our view has now shifted. I feel

that David would be wasting his time playing for the under-19s this summer and it would surely be better if judgments on the issue were made by players, rather than by a blanket rule.

Help may be at hand. Since the admirable reconstitution of an England management committee, the under-19 side now comes under the same umbrella as the senior and A teams and Bob Bennett, the committee chairman, is not deaf to the complaints of the counties, nor to the needs of the young players.

I know of four counties who have raised this with us and I can see their point of view," Bennett said yesterday. "But the Board policy is that under-19 selection must take precedence over county cricket and, in general, this must be upheld. It is a great honour for a young cricketer to play for his country and our aim is to establish a consistency of management and preparation as players move onwards from the under-19s."

Having said that, there may be scope for some discretion. We have to decide if it is of any value to a young cricketer to play age-group games this year and our thinking will be influenced by several factors. One of the obvious issues is whether an individual is eligible for the under-19 World Cup, which is to be staged in South Africa next January.

Tudor and Hollis, who are both 20 before the end of the calendar year, may be ruled over-age for this important tournament, though the ECB has yet to receive either regulations or itinerary. So Surrey, whose gesture in sacrificing an expensive import could usefully be copied elsewhere, may yet keep their young-meters.

One other thing may decide the matter, however. The under-19 internationals this year do not take place until August. It is perfectly possible that Tudor and the youngsters Hollis will both have jumped to senior England cricket two months earlier.



Love, of Northamptonshire, is beaten outside the off stump by Welch at Edgbaston yesterday. Report, page 37

Scotland count cost of success

Simon Wilde on a country desperately in need of funds for the 1999 World Cup

A REMARKABLE thing happened in Kuala Lumpur on April 11: a Scotland cricket team qualified for the next World Cup. It was a development viewed with astonishment by the many who were unaware that the country even aspired to play the Sassenach game, let alone that it had produced two England Test captains in Douglas Jardine and Mike Denness.

But it was not only outsiders who were taken aback by their finishing third in the ICC Trophy, the feeder tournament to the 1999 World Cup, which will be staged primarily in England. So, too, were the Scots themselves.

"I am not saying we did not think we would qualify, but we did not know what the standard of play would be like in Kuala Lumpur," Jim Love, the former Yorkshire batsman and Scotland's coach, said. "It has caught us a little on the hop."

Qualification has created an immediate problem for the Scottish Cricket Union (SCU). Scotland's leading players are essentially weekend cricketers

pursuing professional careers. They are estate agents, teachers, lawyers, council workers, plumbers and warehousemen.

Taking time off work to play cricket strains relations with employers and jeopardises future career prospects. And yet, if Scotland's World Cup matches against the likes of Australia, West Indies and Pakistan are not to end in humiliation, the players require more time off than ever to prepare.

"We would like to set up a building programme, but we do not have the money," Love said. "In the three weeks since we got home from Malaysia, we have held meetings with public relations and marketing companies in an effort to sell ourselves to sponsors. For a minority sport in Scotland, we do not do badly for sponsorship, but we need more."

Although we are getting £100,000 for competing in the ICC Trophy, we have had

Malaysia used up most players' leave which is why the team was without at least six first-choice players for the Benson and Hedges Cup matches against Leicestershire and Durham last week. Both resulted in routs and a third is expected at Northampton today.

Alex Ritchie, the general manager of the SCU, is hoping to arrange fixtures against Kenya and Bangladesh, the other ICC associate members to qualify for the World Cup, and with Holland and Denmark, but how many leading players will be available is uncertain.

Scotland may have to rely on a new generation of players emerging during the next year from an international youth tournament in Bermuda and the Youth World Cup in South Africa.

Scotland's bargaining position with potential sponsors will be stronger next month once they know how many World Cup matches they are to stage. They are certain to host at least one match and probably two, possibly in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Promising crop at cricket nursery

By JOHN GOODBODY

FEW schools have been as fruitful a source of Test cricketers in recent years as Felsted, in Essex. Derek Pringle, John Stephenson and Nick Knight have carried on a tradition of excellence that goes back a century.

The roll of honour includes J. W. H. T. Douglas, known as "Johnny-Won't-Hit-Today" to the Australians. He not only captained England at cricket, but was an amateur international footballer and won the middleweight title at the 1908 Olympic boxing tournament.

Felsted pupils of the Nineties are holding fair to emulate distinguished predecessors. From the cricket teams of the last two years, Giles Goodwin has a contract with Essex, Elliott Wilson with Worcestershire and Richard Hayes, son of Frank, the former Test player and present master in charge, has captained the Essex Under-19 team.

The 1997 crop seems equally talented. On Saturday, the A team, omitting four regular first XI players, beat Bishop's Stortford HS by 98 runs.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Felsted's most successful bowler was Tim Phillips, who last year, aged 15, captured 52 wickets, including eight for 48 against Framlingham. He purveys left-arm spin after starting as a seamer at prep school.

"It's a different art, spin bowling," Phillips said. "You have to make the batsman get himself out. It is more tactical and you need to bowl at least five good balls an over. There is not much margin for error. You have to assess the weaknesses of the batsmen." Phillips' ambition this year is to beat Pringle's school record of 58 wickets. In 1996, he missed four games yet still got

more than 50 and played for Essex Second XI.

Frank Hayes can scarcely contain his enthusiasm. "Tim is the real article. He has unlimited potential. Although he will need to be dedicated, he has the ability to go all the way with ball and bat."

Gordon Barker, the former Essex opening batsman and professional at the school for 25 years, is equally laudatory. "He is so accurate and gets the ball to turn. I have not seen many better at his age."

Barker encouraged the policy at Felsted to select the most talented players for the first XI irrespective of age and he and Hayes have concentrated on individual coaching.

Hayes is helped by having so much support from members of the staff, including three who have played at Minor County level. He believes in not saying too much about those with ability. "It is those who are not so talented that need to have cast-iron technique. We believe in a positive way of playing."

A typical example on Saturday was provided by Leonard Cooper, who at the age of 14

last year, made 86 not out against Harrow and played for the Headmasters' Conference Under-15 team.

After Felsted has lost their first four wickets for 30 runs, against the penetrative pace and yorkers of Alex Kiff, Cooper was the buttress of the innings, defending carefully but punishing every loose delivery.

Despite a pulled thigh muscle, Cooper, supported by Tim Criswell, Rickford, guided Felsted to a total of 219. Kiff, who possesses an unorthodox last stride with a pronounced drag, ended with eight for 81.

When Bishop's Stortford batted much depended on Michael Linegar, who has already scored two centuries this season. When he was out for 28, the innings lost momentum.

The score reached 93 for three, with nearly two hours left, when suddenly Phillips, who had previously been bowling too fast, and Criswell, Rickford began taking wickets. The last seven fell in 40 minutes, with Phillips returning five for 45 and his partner four for 34.

Gatting has his eye on Cork

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

MIKE GATTING, newly installed as an England selector, will be at Derby today for his first scouting mission. With Middlesex unemployed in the penultimate round of Benson and Hedges Cup group games, Gatting is free to assess candidates for England's Texaco Trophy party in the tie between Derbyshire and Worcestershire.

Chris Adams, a contender to open for England in the absence of Nick Knight, and Phil DeFreitas, bidding for his umpteenth recall, will both feature in Gatting's notebook.

So, too, will Graeme Hick, apparently reintegrated after a winter off.

Gatting's attendance at this match, however, is a further reflection of the concern of the England management over Dominic Cork. His fitness, form and especially his frame of mind are all causes for anxiety and David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, is keen that as many of his sides as possible should watch, meet and talk to England's ailing asset.

Ian Botham, who will also be at Derby today, as a

commentator, is another who has been enlisted to help.

If this is to be the last year when the start of the season is fragmented by this competition, it is at least proving more competitive than usual. Not one team is yet sure of qualifying for the last eight.

Group A may be little nearer resolution tonight. Four counties are locked on four points and Lancashire, on two, are not yet out of it. Lancashire should advance by beating Minor Counties at Walsall today, but the games at Derby and Edgbaston, where Yorkshire are the visitors, will be more influential.

Leicestershire will proceed from Group B if they win at Chester-le-Street but Durham have won their past two games and have ample incentive — they have not once reached the quarter-finals. Kent, looking formidable, will qualify from Group C providing they beat British Universities at Canterbury, and Group D stages an intriguing game at Chelmsford between Essex and Somerset.

TABLES

Group A	P	W	L	N	Pts	RR
Worcestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Minor Counties	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Group C	P	W	L	N	Pts	RR
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Worcestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Group D	P	W	L	N	Pts	RR
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Worcestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Cup Final: Arsenal v Manchester United (at Wembley)

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CRICKET

Benson and Hedges Cup

Group A

Derbyshire v Worcestershire

Worcestershire v Leicestershire

Leicestershire v Derbyshire

Derbyshire v Worcestershire

Worcestershire v Leicestershire

Leicestershire v Derbyshire

Derbyshire v Worcestershire

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Worcestershire v Leicestershire

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League

Leeds v Paris Saint-Germain (7.30)

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Leeds v Paris Saint-Ger

James Henderson joins a hardy group on an annual walk across Scotland, just for fun

Take a walk on the wild side

TONY WEST

It's not often that you see a grown man excited about seeing the sea. But, to be fair, he had just climbed nearly 2,000 ft to the summit of Mount Keen in the Eastern Grampians, having walked most of the way across Scotland over the previous ten days.

He was walking from coast to coast as a part of the Great Outdoors Challenge and this was his first glimpse of his goal, the North Sea. He had a smile as big as a Cheshire cat's.

The Great Outdoors Challenge, a hill-walking event, is held each May. On Saturday 250 walkers will set out on the nineteenth Challenge and for the following ten to fourteen days they will walk from Scotland's west coast to east through a swathe of Britain's most extreme and beautiful terrain.

The Challenge is quite informal. Walkers can start at any one of ten official start points, they can finish almost anywhere on the east coast and they can go anywhere on the way.

Some people walk on tracks all the way, others take off into the heather. Most camp, but participants are allowed to spend every night in a bed and breakfast if they wish. Some walk with partners, others with people they meet along the route.

Walkers are required to phone organisers every couple of days for safety reasons, but timings are elastic. The few firm rules are: no motorised help and no dogs, and no running.

The Challenge is not a race. Wanting to "win" is to miss the point. In the best traditions of Scottish hill-walking, participants set a goal for themselves — a challenging one if they want — and do their best to stick to it.

The reward comes in the

completion. There is no winner — except, possibly, the person who has the nicest time in Scotland's magnificent surroundings.

There are certain natural funnels in the crossing and in Glen Esk (beneath Mount Keen) I met a crowd of Challengers who had pitched camp at Tarfside. There are all sorts on the Challenge: voices from various parts of the UK (and a few from abroad), but walkers being as they are, it is a friendly event. An occasional passing shower caused the impromptu debates on food, equipment and the walk to dissolve in a chorus of zipping noises as everyone retreated into their tents.

Walkers select their own routes and send them in for comment by the organisers, who provide advice from their knowledge and experience of

ten hours this can feel much heavier, so a fair bit of mental resolve is needed. One fellow confided in me: "It's a bit depressing when it's raining and you know you've got to get up and get moving..."

However, there are many high points to make up for it. As the event progresses walkers converge and separate in an ever-widening network of acquaintanceships and renewed friendships.

Marian Emsley, a retired teacher, said she and her husband, Derek, particularly enjoyed a night with seven other walkers huddled round a fire in a bothy in Glen Feshie. With the weather raging outside, they chatted over their hip flasks. "The Challenge becomes a bit like a family," says Derek, a veteran of the event with 11 crossings to his name.

In May there is at least a reasonable chance of good weather in Scotland and it stays light late into the evening. However, there can be some snow around and walkers on "high-level" routes, which include 12 Munros (summits over 3,000 ft) or Corbetts (2,500 ft), take an ice axe with them.

Challengers go to odd and sometimes comic lengths to look after themselves. They send parcels of food and spare socks to post offices along the route and have even been known to bury things on their route before starting the Challenge. A shop in Tarfside is particularly popular because of its hot bacon sandwiches.

Last year's Challenge was a tough one. The weather was so cold that during the first week walkers were waking up to find nearby water holes were frozen over.

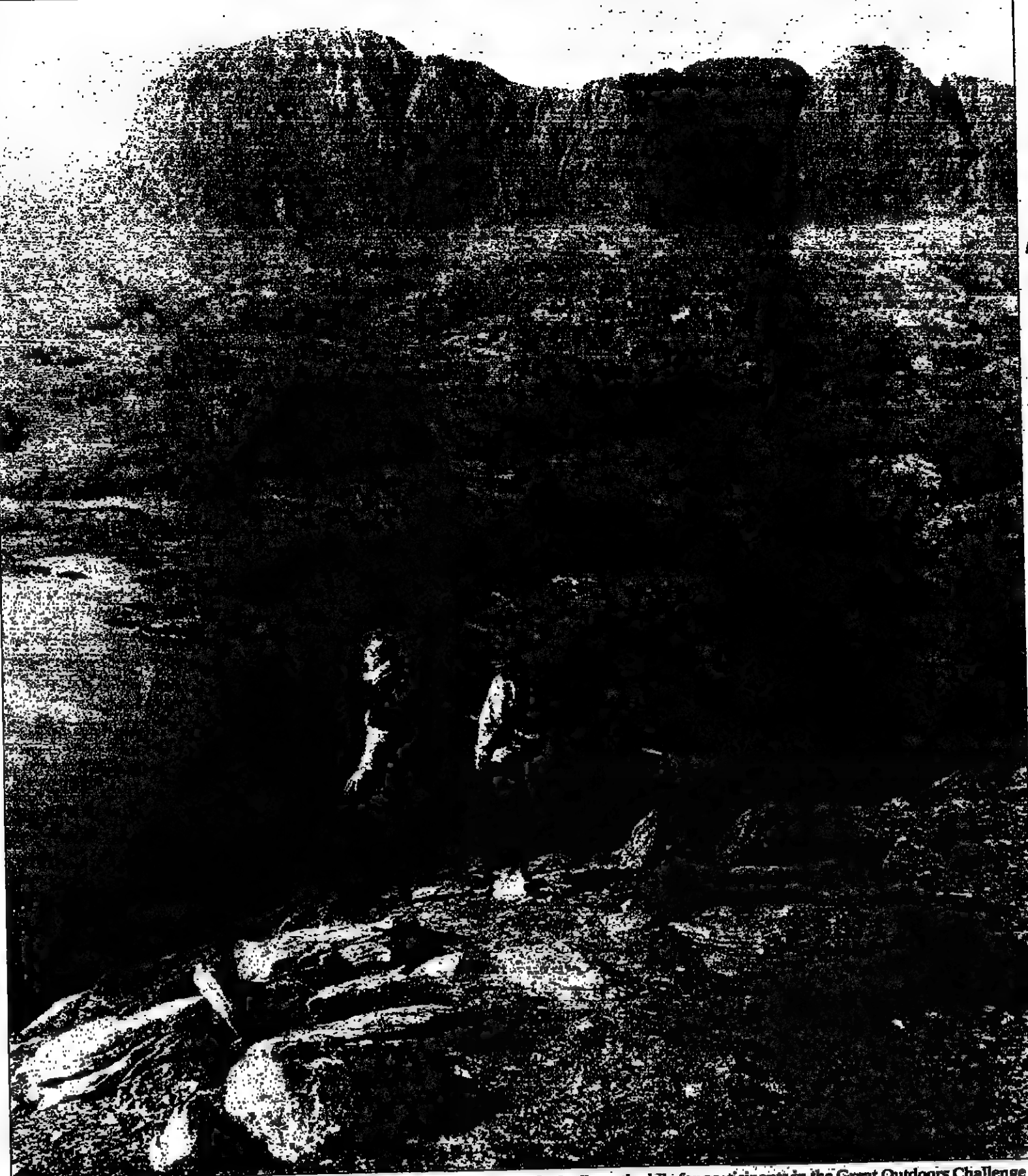
Untypical easterlies meant that participants were walking into a strong wind most of the way. During the second week it poured — and 24 people retired from the event, an unusually high number.

In Montrose at the end of the Challenge I saw many faces I knew, now shaven and clean and sometimes barely recognisable. Walkers streamed in from their finish points on the east coast for the dinners and presentations.

In the congenial warmth the low moments had been forgotten and the stories got taller as the spirits got higher.

The walkers glowed with the knowledge of having faced the Challenge and triumphed and it was gratifying to hear them reel off their route, knowing that every kilometre of it was etched on their hearts.

Derek Emsley told me how he had heard someone, after enduring hours of misery walking into driving wind and rain, turn to her walking partner and say: "Well, have we decided where we're going to start next year then?"



It's a long, tough walk, sometimes in atrocious weather, but the views make it all worthwhile for participants in the Great Outdoors Challenge

SAFETY FIRST

SCOTLAND's weather is unpredictable and can change at a moment's notice, even in the height of summer. It is perfectly possible to be safe, but you need to be prepared.

- Take a map and compass and know how to use them.
- Have all the equipment you need for survival in the worst case.
- Let someone know your intended route and your expected time of arrival.

If you get lost you can return in the direction you came from, take a bearing on a big target such as a road or river, or simply follow streams, tracks and roads to low ground (watching for gullies) and eventually to settlement.

Plenty of books with safety tips can be found in climbing shops and bookshops. The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (tel: 01738 638227, fax: 01738 442095) publishes leaflets and maps with information about walking safety, accommodation and emergency telephone numbers.

All land in Scotland is owned by someone and there is no specific right to roam, but there is de facto access — most landrills will not attempt to stop you walking over unfenced land. Go respectfully: close gates, do not litter, do not stray too close to houses and do not disturb wildlife during the season.

EQUIPMENT

THE equipment needed for hill-walking will vary according to the time of year, but here are a few hints. Prices vary enormously.

BOOTS: Foot comfort is vital, because there is nothing quite like bad blisters to make you lose interest. Scotland is generally wet, underfoot and although you will probably never keep your feet dry, you should have waterproof boots which provide good ankle support (leather boots are really the best) and they should be well worn-in. Most people wear a thin pair of socks inside a thick pair. Wear gaiters in wet conditions.

CLOTHES: Walk in light trousers that can be dried easily (not jeans). On top, think layers: at least take an extra T-shirt and a sweatshirt. A waterproof jacket is essential, and you may also want waterproof trousers. Gore-tex works well most of the year. You can vary your body temperature with gloves and a hat. Take a fleecy top or a warm jersey for when you

pitch camp. Spare socks and soft shoes will help to give your feet a rest.

RUCKSACK: The minimum size is 40 litres to be self-contained: waterproof the contents in plastic bags. These should be: sleeping bag (according to the season); sleeping mat; tent or bivvy bag; stove; fuel; food and hot drinks. Take some high-energy emergency rations, including chocolate. A head torch is always a useful item.

SURVIVAL: Compass and map (and know how to use them); whistle; spare batteries for the torch; lighter and survival bag (the sort that marathon runners use); change for the telephone. You may want to take a global positioning system to help pinpoint exactly where you are.

Many stores offer this equipment. One of the best is Coiswold — The Outdoor People, who have stores in a number of large towns. Catalogues available by phone: 01285 643434.



Take a map and compass — and learn how to use them

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The South African international Henry Mansell was caught napping on this hand in the TOR high game. Do you see a way for East-West to beat Four Hearts?

Dealer South Love all Rubber bridge

♠ Q843	♥ J8	♦ A1092	
♣ 765	♥ K884	♥ Q	
	♥ K75	♠ 88832	
♠ AKQ842	♥ J8	♠ 1078	
	♥ K87		
	♥ A1072		
	♥ AQ104		
	♠ 8		

S	W	N	E
1H	2C	2H	3C
3D	Pass	4H	All Pass

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: two of clubs

Howard Cohen (West) tried the lead of the two of clubs against Four Hearts. His idea was to hope his partner had an entry in clubs. Then if his partner won the first trick, he would ask himself why West had underled A K Q of clubs. It would soon be obvious it was because West had a diamond void.

It actually worked out like that. Declarer played low from dummy on the first trick. East played the ten and returned the nine of diamonds, indicating an entry in the higher ranking suit. West ruffed the diamond and returned a spade to get a second diamond ruff.

Of course, Mansell should have played the jack of clubs at trick one; paying insufficient attention to a suit in

which you appear to have no interest is a common mistake. There's a story from the Lederer Club days in which two tough old pros sat East-West in this layout:

♠ 78	♥ 832
♦ AKQJ1054	♠ 832
♣ 8	

For reasons similar to Cohen's on today's hand, West's opening lead was the four. East played the eight, South the nine and East gathered in the cards and led to the next trick. South never knew he had won the first trick. We play a more caring game nowadays.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

First blood

Garry Kasparov opened his campaign against IBM's Deep Blue computer Mark II with a crushing victory. Yet, at one point, Kasparov appeared to have lost control and the IBM team of boffins who programmed Deep Blue were celebrating what appeared to be a likely victory for their machine.

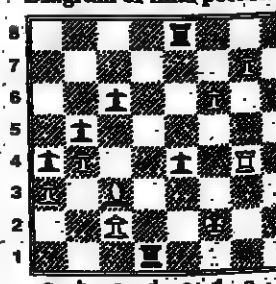
Kasparov opened his game with an impeccably selected strategic opening, the type designed to cause computers maximum difficulty.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Deep Blue
New York May 1997

Refi Opening

1 Nf3	d5
2 g3	Bg4
3 Bg2	Nd7
4 Bb2	a6
5 Bg2	Ng6
6 d4	e6
7 d3	Bb6
8 Nbd2	d4
9 h3	Bf5
10 e3	h6
11 Qe1	Qc5
12 a3	Bc7
13 Nh4	g5
14 Nh3	g4
15 e4	Bxh3
16 Nf2	Qb6
17 Qc1	a5
18 Re1	Bb8
19 Nd1	Qxh4
20 Qxh4	Bx5
21 Ne3	Rd8
22 Nf1	g4
23 Ng4	Ng4
24 f3	Ne8
25 Nc3	Bc7
26 Kh1	Bg5
27 Re2	a4

Diagram of final position



Key moments

Deep Blue could have tried 30... Bxf4 31. gxf4 and only now 31... Bxe2 but in that case White would win with 32 Qd2 attacking Black's bishop, followed by 33 Qc3. A debate still continues as to whether Black's feeble 36th move might have been more profitably replaced by 36... Ng4, trying to remove White's blockading knight on e3.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

WHIMLING

- a. A marsh bird
- b. A faint valley
- c. A weak person

COMPOTATION

- a. Scottish matriculation
- b. A system of statistics
- c. A symposium

BIGGIN

- a. A Spitzfire ace
- b. A thigh bone
- c. A coffee pot

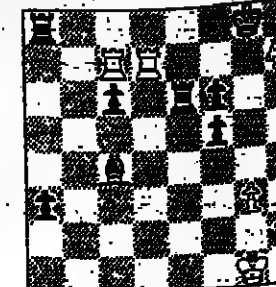
VELLETTY

- a. A gentle wish
- b. Opacity
- c. A tendency to obey

Answers on page 45

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Morphy — Maurian, played at New Orleans. Doubled rooks on the seventh rank are an immensely powerful force. How does White effectively demonstrate this here?



Solution on page 45

Fed up with nasty, thieving, grubby little hands?

(So buy your own copy!)

Have you noticed that the station copy of The TES disappears into someone's bag before you've had a chance to read it? What you are missing is a essential reading for teachers. Every week, The TES highlights the important news with vital information for your career.

As well as our weekly Primary and Pre-School section, the 9th May issue includes a Pre-School Update: full-out with articles on league tables, lessons from Church and Prep schools, raising standards and more.

How can you make sure you don't miss it? Elementary: Visit our newsgroup on Friday and buy your own copy.

PRIMARY A PUBLICATION

MAKE IT PART OF YOUR CURRICULUM
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Post-Keynesian keeper of an estate of grace



Dalgety days: Richard Clothier, left, and John Martyn

When John Martyn decided that his career should change course, he could not have envisaged the direction it would take. Skilled finance directors who are prepared to swap a £220,000 salary for ideals and self-fulfilment are rarities.

When Michael Beloff, QC, learned that Mr Martyn was looking for new opportunities he pounced. The result is that Trinity College, Oxford, now has one of the most high-powered estates bursars to be found in academe.

Last Thursday, Mr Martyn left his post at Dalgety, the cattle feed and pet foods group where Richard Clothier is chief executive, and called a halt to his regular commuting on the M40 from his Oxford home to his London office. Now he will be able to walk or cycle to work. Yet when he resigned last November, he had not considered that he might turn his efforts to the university.

The Times must claim some responsibility for this. Mr Beloff, the president of Trinity, read about Mr Martyn's departure in these pages, just as he was confronting the problem of how to recruit a new estates bursar.

John Wright, an economics fellow, retired from the post this year at the age of 70. All too aware of the usual difficulties of recruiting someone with City experience on an academic salary, Mr Beloff wrote a speculative letter.

It worked. Several months later, Mr Martyn, an economic history graduate from Exeter University, has just been elected to the post by the college's governing body. The

role of estates bursar revolves around the college's endowment — the nest egg that bankrolls the college's operation.



Michael Beloff, the president of Trinity, who wrote to Mr Martyn after reading of his resignation in *The Times*

The job involves nurturing the college's investment portfolio of equities and property and lending a hand to the fundraising that is an inevitable part of modern university life.

Tasks like the upkeep of buildings and the arranging of conferences fall into the domestic bursar's remit.

Trinity's 450th anniversary in 2005 will be an obvious focal point for efforts to further secure its financial future.

Trinity is coy about the full extent of its wealth, but it is substantial. At their grandest, Oxbridge colleges are not far behind the Crown and the Church of England.

Mr Martyn is thrilled to have the college's fortunes in his care. "It fits in with what I wanted to do," he says.

His week will now involve two to three days at Trinity, and two to three days at the Littlewoods group, where he is a non-executive director.

In addition, there is the charity work at the Gatehouse, a drop-in centre for the homeless on St Michael's Street, a couple of hundred metres away from Trinity, but a

world away in social terms. There is also the post of treasurer to a project assisting psychiatric patients on their discharge from Oxfordshire's Littlemore Hospital.

This is clearly not the timetable of a man who left the City to spend more time with his begonias. Mr Martyn, however, is rather sheepish about suggestions that he was withdrawing from the world and taking a vow of poverty.

The Gatehouse centre is only open between 5pm and 7pm so it could hardly have been the only focus of Mr Martyn's time. He says: "I do help and I hope to go along once a week now rather than once a month."

The Trinity appointment comes with all the trimmings: a fellowship, seat at high table for meals, a vote on the governing body, and an office in one of Trinity's stunning buildings, which include a fine chapel and library. And then there are the renowned gardens, which play host to open-air theatre on summer evenings.

The package obviously has some attractions that Dalgety, with its George Street offices in London's Mayfair, would be hard-pressed to match. But the life of an estates bursar may not be entirely stress-free. There is the pressure of emulating the man who, among the retired military types and academics who have taken this title in the past, stands out as something a bit special.

His name: John Maynard Keynes. His college: King's, Cambridge. Unsurprisingly, given his position as arguably the most influential economist of the 20th century, he made them rather a lot of money.

Italian textiles super-merger fails

By OUR CITY STAFF

MARZOTTO, the Italian textile group, has called off a merger with HPI (Holding Partecipazioni Industriali), that would have created one of the world's biggest clothing companies.

The plan was intended to unite names such as Hugo Boss menswear, Fila sportswear and Giorgio Armani into

a £3 billion combine to be called Gruppo Industriale Marzotto. GIM would also have owned Rizzoli Corriere della Sera, Italy's second largest publisher.

Fiat, the carmaker, was to have 17 per cent, Mediobanca 10 per cent and the Marzotto family 12 per cent. The board of Marzotto halted the deal because of "incompatible differences". The groups, which

had been due to hold shareholders' meetings this month before share swaps in July, failed to agree on the details of how the concern should be structured, run and even financed.

Based on preliminary 1996 results, GIM would have had net profit of about £92 million and more than 21,000 staff, the groups said in March, when they announced the ambitious

plan after HPI was spun-off from the Gemina group.

The merger plan came after the collapse of the so-called "SuperGemina" deal, originated by Enrico Cuccia, Mediobanca's 90-year-old honorary chairman in late 1995, to bundle Gemina's interests with the former Ferruzzi agri-chemicals empire. Gemina's core interests were hived off into HPI.

BHP faces widespread strikes

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

BHP, Australia's biggest company, is bracing itself for a wave of strikes this week after the decision to close its steel-making operation in the country's industrial heartland of Newcastle.

Yesterday, trade unions announced plans to call a national strike of BHP's 250,000

employees in its coal and iron ore mines, steel and oil plants in protest at the closure, in what they are saying will be their bitterest industrial fight since the 1930s.

Maurice Rudd, state president of the Australian Workers' Union, said: "We can't walk away from this fight and we can never give up. If a national stoppage of all BHP employees doesn't work we

will extend the dispute." The unions, which still wield considerable power, held a 25-hour strike at the Newcastle steelworks last Friday.

BHP, which makes up 12 per cent of the Australian stock market, announced last week that it would be closing down its steelmaking operations in Newcastle with the loss of 2,500 jobs because of intense competition world-

wide. Last year BHP's steel profits dropped by 76 per cent to \$153 million (£75 million), reducing its overall profit by 20 per cent, to \$1.29 billion.

A restructuring programme is expected to increase its productivity from 700 to 1,000 tonnes of steel per employee a year. Since the restructuring was announced BHP's shares have risen by almost 4 per cent to \$18.04.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

Free child ticket for Alton Towers

The Times, in association with Alton Towers, offers you the chance to get a free child ticket to Britain's most popular theme park. You can enjoy Ripsaw, a new white-knuckle ride which joins the awesome Nemesis, Corkscrew and Black Hole. There is another new attraction, Nickelodeon "Outta" Control, an interactive television adventure

where children become the stars. There are also more than 25 rides and attractions suitable for under-eights including Old MacDonald's farm and an ice show by Peter Rabbit and his friends. You can get extra free child tickets for any of the Tussauds' Group UK attractions during May by buying more copies of *The Times*.

HOW TO APPLY

Attach token two, which will be published tomorrow, to the voucher below and present them to the main entrance of Alton Towers. When you buy one adult ticket for £18.50 you will get a free child ticket, normally £14.50. (A

child is 13 and under.) You can get more free child tickets by buying extra copies of *The Times* and purchasing an accompanying adult ticket. The offer is valid until May 31, 1997. Alton Towers is open from 9.30am-5pm.

THE TIMES/ALTON TOWERS FREE CHILD TICKET VOUCHER

Attach two tokens from *The Times* to this voucher and, when you purchase an adult ticket, you will be admitted with one child at no extra charge, to Alton Towers, Alton, Staffordshire. Present the voucher and tokens at the main entrance ticket booth.

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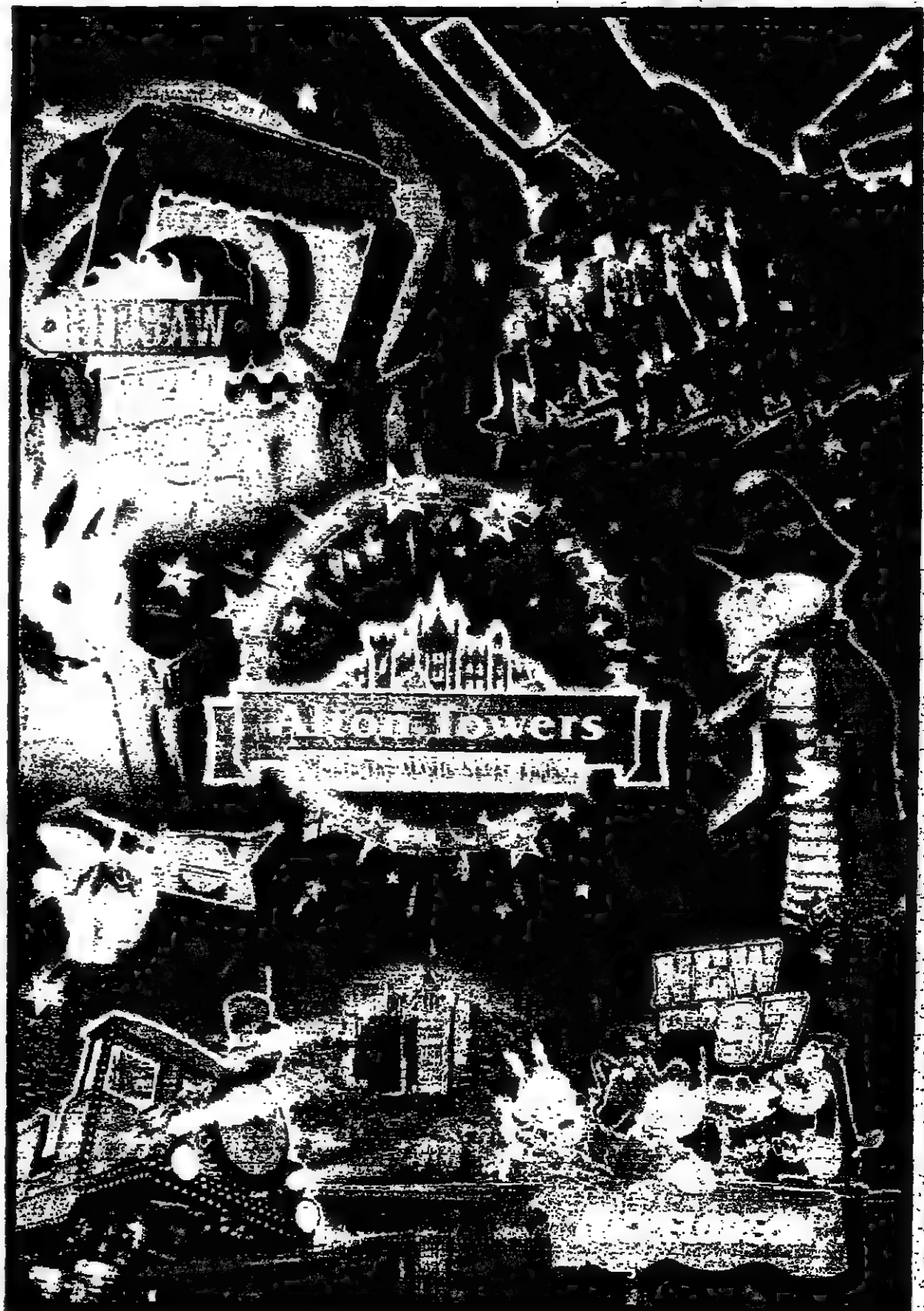
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THE TIMES



AFFIX
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CHANGING TIMES

This Wednesday was due to see the next instalment of the Ken and Eddie show, the gatherings at which the Governor of the Bank of England comes up with several reasons why he would like interest rates to rise and the Chancellor finds at least one good reason why they should not. At least, that is the way they have played recently.

But the financial markets have been assuming that once the election was out of the way, then the game would change. Particularly if Labour won, the Governor would find himself pushing upon an open door. In the twisted logic of the markets, the way for Gordon Brown to show his toughness is to agree straightaway to what the Governor wants and the markets expect.

According to the know-alls, big rises in interest rates are "inevitable". Starting this week, they see rates rising to 7 per cent by the end of the year, and even further next year. Yet in market matters, the

supposedly inevitable is about as certain as the winter favourite for the Derby.

Eighteen years ago, many market operators (though not your aged columnist) were still at school, if not in nappies. This is a pity, for 1979 was as salutary an experience for the money markets as it was for everybody else.

When the Conservatives were elected in May 1979, the markets were aware that the reduction of inflation was prominent in the new Government's objectives and the clever ones reasoned that lower inflation implied lower interest rates. But what they had not worked out was that the route to lower inflation was via higher interest rates.

So it was a shock when the June 1979 Budget, which quickly followed the election, included an

increase in interest rates from 12 per cent to 14 per cent, followed in November by another increase, from 14 per cent to 17 per cent. Only then did the markets realise that they were in a different world.

Despite the markets' current confidence that interest rates must rise, there is a perfectly respectable case for leaving them well alone. With sterling up by nearly 20 per cent in 12 months, inflation is set to fall later this year. Nor does it seem likely that it will pick up much, if at all, thereafter.

This is not to say that there is not a case for some tightening of policy. But while consumer spending is expanding strongly, there are worrying signs of weakness in export orders.

The policy that would directly cater to the current state of the economy is a rise, not in interest



ROGER BOOTLE

rates, but in taxes. This could be readily accomplished while adhering to Labour's pledge not to increase the standard and higher rates of income tax. It is here, on tax policy, rather than on interest rates, that there is a need to reverse an obvious political bias.

Given the political pressures, the

Budget last November was about as tight as could reasonably be expected, even by the most hard-hearted economist. But politics aside, it was too lax.

Indeed, it would be extraordinary if the tax levels set by a government committed to low levels of personal taxation, trying to live down a previous bout of tax rises, barely able to muster a majority in Parliament and soon to face the electorate from a desperate position in the polls, proved also to be appropriate for a new government with a fresh mandate, a large majority and five years ahead of it.

There is a view that despite these arguments, the new Chancellor can accede to at least a small rise in interest rates because this is already priced in by the markets. In delivering what they already expect, there will be no further effect

on market prices, and in particular, no further boost to the pound. There may be no such thing as a free lunch, but this is supposedly a free interest rate increase.

Don't you believe it. Just because the markets expect a rise, this does not mean that they will not react to its realisation. If you like, the first morsel, far from assuaging their hunger, may merely whet their appetite for more.

In February 1994 markets were convinced that American interest rates would have to rise. Yet they still plunged in a blind panic when Greenspan, the Fed Chairman, delivered precisely the increase of a mere 4 per cent which they had expected.

In any case, if Mr Brown failed to deliver the interest rate rise which the markets expect then, far

from being unmoved, they should react by taking the pound down, which would be very welcome.

So, rather than being born along on a tide of inevitability, Mr Brown faces a stark choice. The best advice is to wait. Wait to see how the pound behaves in the wake of the election victory and the various announcements to be expected in the next few weeks. Wait for evidence on whether the recent signs pointing to a slight easing in the pace of growth are confirmed.

And most importantly, wait until he is ready with his plans for the Budget, now due in a matter of weeks. If he backs off from significant tax rises, then a small increase in interest rates may be necessary, although still far short of what the hotheads in the City expect.

But if he is prepared to deliver a tough Budget, then there is no need for interest rates to go up at all. Now that would be the way to show who's in charge.

Choices for the new Chancellor

Avoid doing too much too soon, Mr Brown

We have been told to expect the first Budget of this Government in July. We have not been told what to expect in it apart from a windfall tax on privatised utilities and a reduced rate of VAT on domestic fuel. So the country has a new start and Gordon Brown has an almost clean sheet of paper. What should he put on it?

In one sense, we should ask for nothing. Our present tax system is reasonably fair, works reasonably well and should be left alone. Any change adds costs not least because businesses and individuals need to understand — that is, pay their advisers to explain — the implications of changes and what action they should take.

It is a pipe-dream to imagine any new Chancellor being content to do nothing. If there are to be tax changes, how-

The new Chancellor starts with a clean sheet. Peter Wyman offers his ideas on how he might fill it

ever, Mr Brown should adopt some guiding principles:

□ The Chancellor needs to set out his vision for the tax system and outline a programme for the whole Parliament. People and businesses need to be able to plan their affairs. Not all the tax changes the new Chancellor would like to make can be introduced in the first Budget, but the clearer the idea people have of what to expect, the more confidently they can plan their future.

For example, there has been much speculation about the future of capital gains tax. As a result, taxpayers face a dilemma on whether to accelerate or defer the selling of assets.

Sitting on the wrong assets for the wrong reasons is potentially damaging for individual and corporate wellbeing and in the long run damages the economy as a whole.

□ The Chancellor should avoid the temptation to do too much too quickly. That leads to half-developed proposals introduced by half-baked legislation. More time, not less, needs to be spent developing changes, understanding the consequences and crafting laws to stand the test of time. For the past 30 years we have been plagued with rushed legislation, subsequently amended many times.

□ Treasury ministers should cast off their obsession with "tax loopholes" (most of which are not loopholes at all). On behalf of taxpayers and common sense, they should stamp firmly on Customs & Excise and the Inland Revenue, who are obsessed with tax avoidance. We should not have a regime that anyone with a decent adviser can get round. Equally, avoidance overkill adds hugely to costs and ties up business in red tape.

□ We need a tax system that positively encourages people to achieve the Government's aims. A thriving economy, a successful business sector, high employment and high

give relief on money put in and exempt money from tax so long as it remains in, but tax money coming out as income.

Ideally, given the will to encourage saving, there would be no limit to an individual's tax-free fund but, if necessary, some size parameters could be set. The trick will be to keep the rules simple, the necessary administration cheap and to look at this as a genuine wish to encourage saving and not as a tax-avoidance scheme that needs strict control.

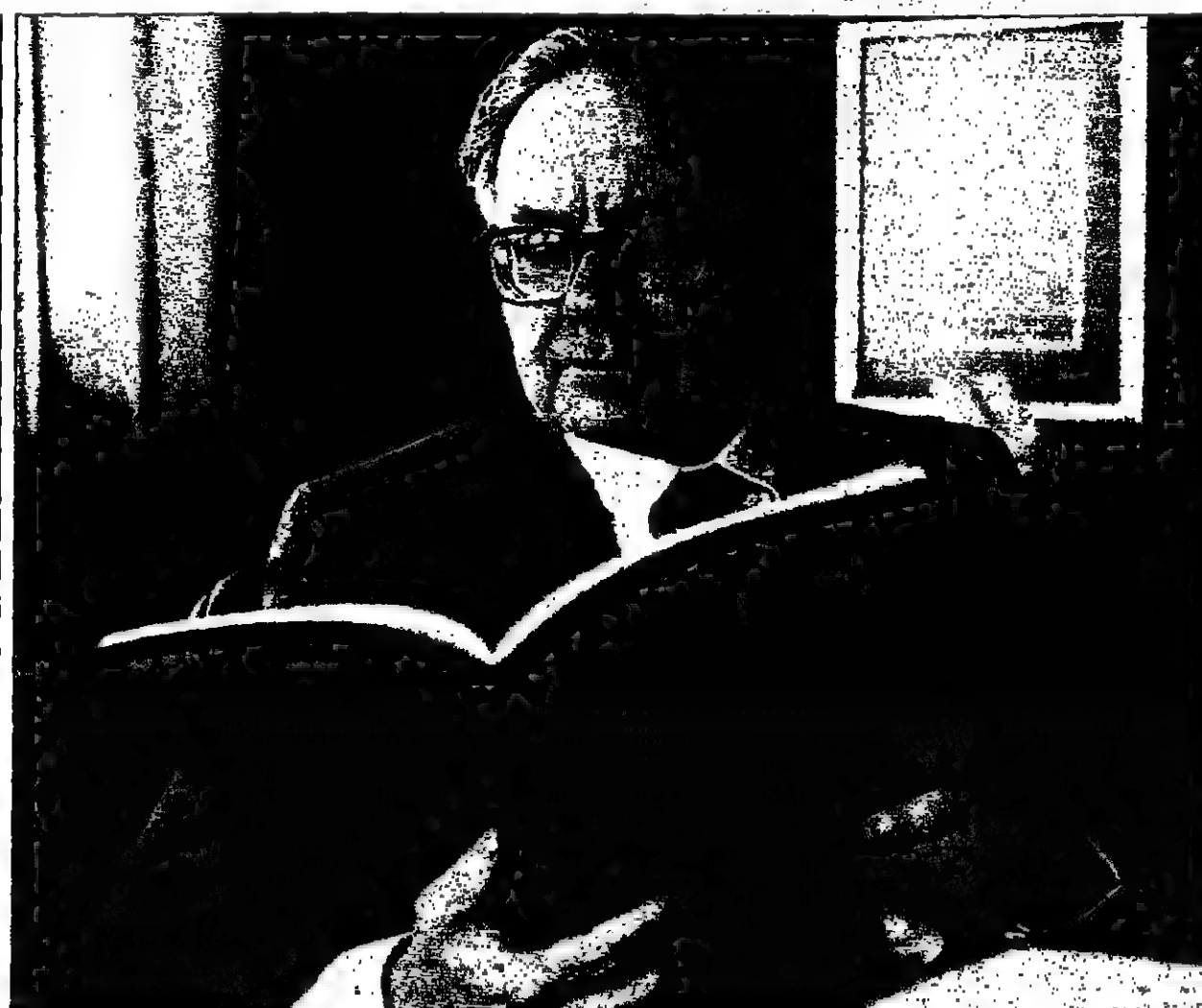
2: Such a scheme would deal neatly with many capital gains. Changes need to be made in the regime for others. A 40 per cent top rate of tax on capital gains may be acceptable for short-term gains, but is a disincentive to long-term investment. There has been much talk about a two-tier, long and short-term capital gains tax system. Now would be the right time to make a commitment to do it, after consultation, during the lifetime of this Parliament.

3: The Government may decide to change inheritance tax. The current regime is admittedly benign. It remains essential that businesses can still pass from generation to generation without crippling tax liabilities, that trusts (which have many purposes unrelated to tax planning) are not subjected to penal taxation, and that money can be left to spouses without tax liability.

So, if there is to be an increase in taxation where will it come from? One could envisage raising income tax by restricting allowances to the basic rate and by placing some overall limit on the tax-free savings fund. Beyond that there is no scope for higher income tax without departing from manifesto commitments or the principles above.

The burden falling on companies cannot be raised more than marginally if the UK is to remain competitive on tax. The yield from inheritance tax is not enough for increases to make a substantial impact on tax receipts. Interfering with pension reliefs — notably tax credit refunds for pension schemes and tax-free lump sums for those retiring — have both been talked about as easy ways to raise revenue. But that would act against the imperative to switch reliance from the state to funded private saving.

Like it or not, that only seems to leave VAT — or National Insurance, which is not a tax anyway, is it? The author is head of tax at Coopers & Lybrand



The seriously rich, wisecracking Warren Buffett, famously christened the Forrest Gump of finance by Vanity Fair

Wealth of wisdom and wit behind the folksiness

Frank le Duc on a new offering from the mind of Warren Buffett

Two simple rules guide Warren Buffett, America's most famous living investor: "Rule number one: never lose money. Rule number two: never forget rule number one."

The Forrest Gump of finance, as *Vanity Fair* christened him, also has a few other guiding principles, such as: "Invest in a business that even a fool can run, because some day a fool will."

One of those businesses is See's Candy. Buffett said: "When business says, we spread the rumour that our candy acts as an aphrodisiac. Very effective. The rumour, that is, not the candy."

The wisecracks and apple-pie parables conceal a serious purpose: becoming seriously rich. The way Buffett tells it, we could all be billionaires. He is. And he has a knack of making the investment decisions that earned his billions seem blindingly obvious.

Perhaps they were. But lesser mortals have to settle for hindsight, while Buffett seems possessed of a remarkable foresight. A humorous and folksy style belie the quality of his analysis and the degree of his focus on his vocation and hobby: making money.

Buffett practises value investment as preached by Benjamin Graham, the father of securities analysis. The aim is to buy shares when they are undervalued. He acknowledges other influences and has allowed experience to

modify the theories, but sums up: "Price is what you pay. Value is what you get."

The bare facts are impressive. Anyone who bought \$5,000 of shares in Berkshire Hathaway, Buffett's investment vehicle, in the mid-1960s, would now be a multimillionaire. By 1970 he had already established an enviable track record, turning his own \$100 investment into a \$25 million personal fortune.

Some investors outperform him in some years, but few, if any, can match his sustained record of excellence. Apart from Dow-busting returns, he has earned a string of nicknames, such as the Sage of Omaha. Born there in 1930, he prefers to operate from the corn-belt town rather than the rumour mill of Wall Street. He said pointedly: "With enough inside information and a million dollars, you can go broke in a year."

His home town becomes a modern Delphi when Berkshire Hathaway holds its annual meetings. Thousands

come to hear the Oracle field questions for hours on end. Hundreds of his pronouncements, and not just from the annual meetings, are contained in *Warren Buffett Speaks* by Janet Lowe (John Wiley & Sons, £12.99). Subtitled *Wit and Wisdom from the World's Greatest Investor*, the book, due out on Wednesday, is broken up into dozens of categories but has no index.

Lowe puts many of Buffett's remarks into their context with admirable brevity. When one of his sons stood for county commissioner, it did not mean that his campaign would be well financed. Buffett said: "I asked him to spell his name in lower-case letters so that everyone would realise that he was the Buffett without the capital."

Other quotes need no context, such as: "That which is not worth doing, is not worth doing well." Or "The market, like the Lord, helps those who help themselves."

Explaining his philosophy, he said: "Berkshire buys

when the lemmings are heading the other way."

Inevitably, perhaps, the book lacks substance. It is rather like a tray of nibbles — immensely enjoyable, but only as an appetiser.

Wiley also published *The Warren Buffett Way* by Robert Hagstrom, a more satisfying book that explains the key ideas.

Buffett: the Making of an American Capitalist, a biography by Roger Lowenstein, published by Orion, is an easy, general read. Both are peppered with Buffett's own words and are better value.

Buffett is widely admired, not only for his wealth and wit, but also for his integrity, and his modest and self-deprecating charm. Others cite the long-term approach that he brings to a notoriously short-term profession.

His high-mindedness led to significant criticisms in *St Warren*. But in one recent annual report he seemed to parody this when flagging Berkshire Hathaway products on sale at the annual meeting. "Though we like to think of the meeting as a spiritual experience, we must remember that even the saintliest of religions includes the ritual of the collection plate."

Buffett shows no signs of being prepared to step down from his pulpit. He is happy to keep collecting the offerings, and storing up more treasure on Earth for his followers.



Wyman: guiding principles

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Where there is not a prayer that the Church will protest

Adam Jones
explains why
Commissioners
prefer to take
a quiet line
on ethics

The Church Commissioners, guardians of the bulk of the Church of England's assets, are facing criticism from other Christian groups for refusing to back shareholder activists. The Commissioners manage £16 billion of shares to fund clergy pay, pensions and housing.

Their investment team has an ethical code that has been in existence since 1948, precluding holdings in companies that derive most of their business from alcohol, arms, gambling, tobacco and newspapers. Acceptable companies are monitored to ensure they stay within the guidelines.

However, the Commissioners' preference for quietly approaching wayward companies privately, as opposed to backing critical shareholder motions at annual meetings, is coming under fire from Christian ethical investors.

The Ecclesiological Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) is one of the proponents of a controversial motion due to be discussed at Shell's annual meeting on May 14. The critical resolution calls for a senior manager and an external auditor to monitor the oil company's environmental and corporate governance policies. It follows Shell's refusal to pull out of Nigeria after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Ogoni leader.

The ECCR, a coalition of Christian groups and individuals, including the Quakers, wanted to submit a similar resolution to the 1996 AGM, but was only able to raise 90 signatures, four short of the minimum. To the ECCR's frustration, the Church Commissioners, who are responsible for about £55 million of Shell shares, refused to sign and lend their considerable influence to the motion.

The ECCR says the situation is the same this year. Having again declined to sign the resolution, which is also backed by Fire, the corporate governance pressure group, the Church Commissioners have written to the group to say that they will refrain from voting on the issue, despite admitting that they are supportive of the general themes.

The Commissioners defend their neutrality by saying they cannot be drawn into campaigning because they have a



Indirect action: the Commissioners say diplomacy achieves more than protest

strict remit laid down by statute and also because of the extra expense that could be involved in assuming a more public and pro-active role.

More importantly, they say a discreet word in a company's ear leads to a far more constructive dialogue than a damning speech at an annual meeting. A spokesman said: "We do have an ethical approach to the way we conduct investment. We monitor our investments very carefully and are always prepared to enter into dialogue with the company. We do consider the appropriateness of other forms of action on a one-off basis." These one-off actions have included complete divestment of holdings.

However, the Reverend

Crispin White, co-ordinator of the ECCR, says exercising a vote at a shareholder meeting is not political or expensive: "We are treating this as a piece of responsible share ownership and we believe that's how the Commissioners ought to be treating it." He describes the Church Commissioners' ethical investment guidelines as "totally inadequate".

He says tighter definitions are needed to decide how much profit a company is allowed to make from a morally dubious activity before it becomes unacceptable. He says a stricter definition is vital in deciding whether to invest in companies such as GEC, which is involved in

military sales but is also a cornerstone of Britain's electrical engineering industry.

The Church Commissioners are also about to receive a lengthy critique of their ethical stance from the Christian Ethical Investment Group, a small body of activists. The group has been preparing a response to a report produced by a Church of England working group last year, outlining ethical investment policy and practice.

On the subject of the Church's investment in Shell, the working group said: "Frequent meetings and contacts with Shell representatives from both London and Nigeria have taken place. As a result of the considerable pressure placed on Shell by the

[working] group and others, the company has put in place a number of remedial actions which the group will closely monitor, and which it is believed will alleviate over time many of the Nigerian difficulties."

It also admits: "Not all Church members interpret ethical standards in the same way... the legal obligation for financial obligations remains paramount in investment decisions. Some compromises have to be made, therefore and policy may fall short of some Church members' ideals."

A desire to develop an emphasis on considering positive ethical criteria was also expressed in the document. However, the Christian Ethical Investment Group is expected to say that the approach of the Church's working party, while having some value, does not go far enough.

There is also pressure for the Church Commissioners to use EIRR, the independent research body that supplies ethical assessments of companies to its subscribers. The World Development Movement, a UK pressure group campaigning on Third-World issues, is another critic.

It has been trying to influence RTZ Mining, whose overseas activities, it claims, can have a detrimental effect on local people and their environment. The Church Commissioners own £11.5 million of RTZ shares. The World Development Movement, which includes the Christian groups Oxfam and Christian Aid among its supporters, believes the Church Commissioners should publicly bring pressure to bear on RTZ.

Aditi Sharma, a spokeswoman, said: "I don't think it's political or partisan. I think ethical investment is now much more mainstream. It's very much on the corporate agenda. Good ethics make good financial sense." Antony Hardy, investments manager of the Church Commissioners, says there are, inevitably, areas where RTZ could improve its practices.

But he says the company has a good record in health, safety and the environment, balancing the ethics of the developed world with the desire of developing countries to use their natural assets to benefit their own people. He says the Church Commissioners, while differing in opinion on how best to influence corporate governance, are supportive of the smaller groups of Christians campaigning for human rights and environmental responsibility.

He concludes: "We see ourselves as going down the motorway together, but at slightly different speeds and in slightly different lanes."

What Labour victory means for bonds

Gilt yields are set to rise this year, but Labour's landslide election victory should help gilts to outperform other major bond markets. We expect the benchmark ten-year yield to be 8 per cent by end-year, some 60 basis points higher than at present. If so, this implies a total return of just 1.5 per cent for domestic investors, underperforming even the humble building society account.

Our statistical model of gilt yields suggests that movements in world yields account for roughly half of the change in UK yields. Domestic factors, such as the budget deficit (a measure of gilt supply) and short rates and inflation (proxies for demand), account for the remainder.

Taking the international backdrop first, in the US and Germany the medium-term bond market outlook is mildly bearish. The US is a classic late-cycle story of above-trend growth, tight labour markets, increasing inflation pressures and rising short rates. After Wednesday's figures, it seems probable that US growth will be near 3.5 per cent in 1997, against a consensus of 2.3 per cent in December. Strong GDP growth has fed through into strong employment growth — more than 850,000 new non-farm jobs so far this year — which has pushed growth in hourly earnings up to 3.5 to 4 per cent. How fast this feeds through into higher consumer price inflation is a moot point, but feed through it surely will. We think that the Fed's game plan is to raise the federal funds rate to around 6 per cent by the year end, at which point we reckon

that the US long bond yield will be 7.5 per cent. Germany's economy is gathering momentum. The weaker mark is boosting exports, and rising foreign demand is encouraging firms to step up investment. Increased demand for capital and growing unease over the substitution of the euro for the mark will push the ten-year bond yield to 6.5 per cent by end-1997.

The UK budget deficit, although far too high for this stage of the economic cycle, should fall over the course of the year, providing modest support for the gilt market. However, unrealistic expenditure targets — for example, health expenditure in real terms is forecast to be unchanged this year — imply a

deficit overshoot, which will take the shine off an otherwise encouraging supply position.

Our proxies for gilt demand also give rise to concern. Base rates are forecast to rise by 0.75 percentage points this year and medium-term inflation pressures are mounting.

There is good news, however. Although we remain cautious of gilts in absolute terms, they offer good value relative to other international bond markets. The benchmark measure of relative value, the ten-year gilt/bond yield spread, has widened steadily in the past two and a half years, thanks to above-trend UK growth. We expect the spread to narrow in the coming months, for four reasons.

First, the extent of Labour's

election victory should be seen as a clear plus for the gilt market. Investors, though relatively comfortable with the prospect of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown directing the economy, have remained cautious of the extremes within Labour. The size of the new Government's majority should provide reassurance.

Secondly, we believe that Labour's true feelings towards Europe were played down in the election campaign. In power, Labour is expected to be more pro-European than the Tories. Simply an increase in the probability of the UK eventually joining European monetary union will boost gilts.

Thirdly, we believe that Gordon Brown, keen to prove his inflation-fighting credentials and conscious of Labour's record on inflation, will prove more willing to follow Bank of England advice on interest rates. This, by dampening longer-term inflation pressures, will support the long end of the gilt market.

Finally, although UK growth will stay above trend, faster growth in continental Europe will narrow the gap in growth rates.

So, the private investor, seeking absolute return over a medium-term horizon, should be in cash rather than gilts. However, for institutional investors, measured against a benchmark index, gilts offer the prospect of relative outperformance, with the gilt/bond spread set to narrow to 150 basis points by end-year.

DICK HOWARD AND
ADRIAN OWENS
Julius Baer Investments

And the good news is...

Newsround's Rock and Roll Years
BBC1, 4.45pm

"Good news for Tom and Jerry fans", said presenter John Craven almost exactly 25 years ago. He was introducing the first daily news programme aimed specifically at children and it has been going out live at 5.00pm on weekdays ever since. Although the likeable Craven left for pastures new in 1989, taking his rich and varied casual wardrobe with him, the series still gets children (and adult viewers by the millionfold) with BBC foreign correspondents rewriting their commentaries — often only slightly, the series prides itself on not patronising — to give, in many cases, a scoop ahead of the main news. This lively slice of nostalgia is copied from the immensely successful *Rock and Roll Years* but is stronger on the stories it recalls than on the music running parallel with them.

Change Your Life Forever
ITV, 6.45pm and 8.00pm

Jim (as in *Jim'll Fix It*) has much to answer for — in spin-off from the current *Whatever You Want* — in the beginning. Tonight Anthony Turner hosts the latest: this live, two-part special (a pilot for a future series perhaps) gives six finalists "the chance to win the prize of a lifetime — the chance to change their lives forever." They are a sheet metal worker who dreams of running a cafe on a Greek island, a bus driver who wants to manage charities for blue marlin fishing, a window cleaner who... well, you get the picture. A celebrity panel, namely John Singleton, Sue Cook, Zoe Ball and Vanessa Feltz, picks the most likely candidate and off he or she goes, film cameras in tow, to try their chosen lifestyle for a month. Then, after the break, they tell a waiting world whether they would like to adopt it full time.

Gulliver's Travels
Channel 4, 8.00pm

A repeat, and it began yesterday, but this is by far the week's classiest programme and the quality of the awards it collected suggest that Charles Sturridge's masterpiece was probably the most original of 1996. So, if you missed it then, now is your chance to thread your way through its



Newsround presenters (BBC1, 4.45pm)

never-bettered special effects and, of course, play spot-the-stars... Kristin Scott-Thomas, Peter O'Toole and Sir John Gielgud among them. In tonight's final chapter Jonathan Swift's hero (played by Ted Danson) is fighting to prove his sanity — not easy when his tales of the Hounsburns (wise horses) and Yahoos (ape-like creatures) keep getting in the way. Mary Steenburgen plays his loyal wife, Robert Hardy the doctor who heads the medical board before which Gulliver stands trial. And Dr Bates has good reason to want him proved insane...

The 1997 World Music Awards
ITV, times vary

Now in its eighth year, this is really *Hello!* magazine territory — ie, glossy escapism — and on a Bank Holiday what better? You want royalty? Her Serene Highness Princess Stephanie of Monaco is one of the hosts. Stars? The Bee Gees, Lionel Richie, Roberta Flack, Julio Iglesias, Vanessa Mae, Kenny G, Celine Dion, Howard Stern, and HSH Prince Albert of Monaco. You may have guessed by now all this comes from Monte Carlo. Indeed the whole bash is in aid of the Princess Grace Foundation for aspiring young artists, orphans and elderly people in need. On past form it has attracted more than 900 million viewers around the globe. You can't laugh that off. Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Mods versus Rockers
Radio 2, noon

Teenaged girl: "We don't smash things up. We have a bit of fun." Interviewer: "What does fun consist of?" Girl: "Smashing things up!" This is one of the surreal philosophical exchanges in Bob Harris's charting of the disturbing clash of youth she lived in. *Extravagant Strangers* she talks about those days to the Caribbean writer Caryl Phillips with whom she has much in common. Although she regrets not having been able to do anything to help lighten the load of blacks in southern Africa, but her book made the wider world aware of their plight as Alan Paton did in *Cry the Beloved Country* which, in 1948, blazed the trail along which *The Grass is Singing* bravely travelled. Peter Daveley

Extravagant Strangers
Radio 3, 9.35pm

A treat in store for you next week is Janet Suzman reading Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing* in the Radio 4 Book at Bedtime slot. It was her first novel, and in it, she distilled the abhorrence she felt for British colonialism in southern Rhodesia where she lived. In *Extravagant Strangers* she talks about those days to the Caribbean writer Caryl Phillips with whom she has much in common. Although she regrets not having been able to do anything to help lighten the load of blacks in southern Africa, but her book made the wider world aware of their plight as Alan Paton did in *Cry the Beloved Country* which, in 1948, blazed the trail along which *The Grass is Singing* bravely travelled. Peter Daveley

RADIO 1

7.00am Dave Pearce 12.00 Mark Goodier 1.00pm Art & Doc with their favourite music 3.00 Kevin Greening 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.30 Newsbeat 6.35 Blue at Peel Acres 6.30 Live Music Update with Biggy Special 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00 Dave Warner

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Radio 2 News 1.00pm Radio 2 News 2.00pm Radio 2 News 3.00pm Radio 2 News 4.00pm Radio 2 News 5.00pm Radio 2 News 6.00pm Radio 2 News 7.00pm Radio 2 News 8.00pm Radio 2 News 9.00pm Radio 2 News 10.00pm Radio 2 News 11.00pm Radio 2 News 12.00am Radio 2 News

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.00 The Magazine with Diane Medill 12.00 Midday with Melvyn 1.00pm Radio 5 News 2.00pm Radio 5 News 3.00pm Radio 5 News 4.00pm Radio 5 News 5.00pm Radio 5 News 6.00pm Radio 5 News 7.00pm Radio 5 News 8.00pm Radio 5 News 9.00pm Radio 5 News 10.00pm Radio 5 News 11.00pm Radio 5 News 12.00am Radio 5 News

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy War 7.00 Paul Rose 9.00 Scott Cranley 12.00 Ul 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Radio 5 News 5.00pm Radio 5 News 6.00pm Radio 5 News 7.00pm Radio 5 News 8.00pm Radio 5 News 9.00pm Radio 5 News 10.00pm Radio 5 News 11.00pm Radio 5 News 12.00am Radio 5 News

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Newsday 7.15 Newsday 7.30 Newsday 8.15 On the Spot 8.30 Newsday 9.15 On the Spot 9.30 Newsday 10.15 On the Spot 10.30 Newsday 11.15 On the Spot 11.30 Newsday 12.30 Newsday 1.15 On the Spot 1.30 Newsday 2.15 On the Spot 2.30 Newsday 3.15 On the Spot 3.30 Newsday 4.15 On the Spot 4.30 Newsday 5.15 On the Spot 5.30 Newsday 6.15 On the Spot 6.30 Newsday 7.15 On the Spot 7.30 Newsday 8.15 On the Spot 8.30 Newsday 9.15 On the Spot 9.30 Newsday 10.15 On the Spot 10.30 Newsday 11.15 On the Spot 11.30 Newsday 12.30 Newsday 1.15 On the Spot 1.30 Newsday 2.15 On the Spot 2.30 Newsday 3.15 On the Spot 3.30 Newsday 4.15 On the Spot 4.30 Newsday 5.15 On the Spot 5.30 Newsday 6.15 On the Spot 6.30 Newsday 7.15 On the Spot 7.30 Newsday 8.15 On the Spot 8.30 Newsday 9.15 On the Spot 9.30 Newsday 10.15 On the Spot 10.30 Newsday 11.15 On the Spot 11.30 Newsday 12.30 Newsday 1.15 On the Spot 1.30 Newsday 2.15 On the Spot 2.30 Newsday 3.15 On the Spot 3.30 Newsday 4.15 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Choices that the Chancellor must soon make

BUSINESS

ALTAR EGOS 46

Schism over the Church's stand on ethical investment



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MAY 5 1997

BP chief in talks over Labour role

By OLIVER AUGUST

SIR David Simon, chairman of BP, had long weekend talks with fellow board members over his prospective role in Tony Blair's government. He is one of a number of high-profile businessmen mulling over or awaiting an invitation from the Prime Minister.

Sir David, an enthusiast for European business integration, is thought to have been offered a senior advisory post with responsibility for industry. One possibility is that of chief industrial adviser at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Earlier reports that Sir David, 57, would be made

Europe minister were overtaken by events yesterday when Doug Henderson was appointed to the post. But Sir David's strong European credentials are expected to make him a prominent advocate of monetary union membership inside the Government.

He is keen to stay at the oil group. From his North Norfolk cottage, he is believed to be telling board members that he would prefer a part-time political post. He has worked for BP since 1961 and has a reputation for being effective rather than flamboyant. He spent much of the 1970s and early 1980s running BP operations on the Continent.

The post of Chief Industrial Adviser is one of a number of non-ministerial economic jobs in Mr Blair's gift. The pool of executives on which Mr Blair is expected to draw to fill these posts is primarily made up of members of the Business Commission. Earlier this year, it produced a report setting out guidelines for a Labour government which had been commissioned by the Institute for Public Policy Research, a Labour think tank.

The members of the Commission included Bob Bischof, chairman of the Boss Group, David Sainsbury, chairman of J. Sainsbury, Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of Legal & General, Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, Bob Bauman, the British Aerospace chairman, George Simpson, the GEC chief executive. Also believed to be considered are Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News and Media, and Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada.

While some British industrialists were waiting to hear from Mr Blair personally, Margaret Beckett, his new President of the Board of Trade, wrote an open letter to thousands of firms across the country. She pledged to build a "high-skill, high-investment" economy and establish new partnerships with business. She wrote she wanted her department "to build a real partnership with every part of industry, so our businesses can prosper and thrive."

"Before we came to power, we consulted extensively with all sectors of the business community. Now that we are in government we shall build on that consultation, working closely with Britain's entrepreneurs."

Mrs Beckett's letter promised particular help for Britain's exporters, who are struggling with a strong pound which has made their goods much more expensive abroad. The Labour Government's policies on the European Union would also be tailored to British business needs, including a drive to complete the Single Market, giving British manufacturers open access to all corners of the EU market.



A CHEF, who is so distracted by the offer of Norwich Union shares that the lobster he is attacking escapes, forms part of a Saatchi & Saatchi advertising campaign launched this weekend to promote the flotation of the former East Anglian mutual insurance group (Graham Searjeant writes).

The High Court has approved the society's conversion to plc status after members voted 99 per cent in favour on April 18. Unlike the Alliance & Leicester Building Society and most others in the current run of conversions, Norwich is aiming to raise new money from members and other investors through

the flotation. Members will be offered shares at a discount. The prospectus is due this month, before the June flotation. For television viewers, meanwhile, the chef escapes lightly compared with an astronaut who misses his rocket back to Earth and a trapeze artist who forgets to catch his partner.

Robertson signs Sceptre refit order

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE Government has signed its first defence order within 24 hours of taking office. George Robertson, the new Defence Secretary, endorsed a £130 million refit of HMS Sceptre, one of five Swiftsure class nuclear hunter-killer submarines.

Babcock International, the engineering group, will carry out the work at Rosyth Royal Dockyard in Scotland. Up to 3,200 jobs could be safeguarded for years to come. Defence industry insiders had voiced fears that Labour might try to pay for extra spending on health and education by cutting expensive defence projects.

But expectations that Mr Robertson will now endorse Tory defence plans wholesale are said to be misguided.

Yesterday's go-ahead is confirmation of a decision announced in principle last November, though officials and ministers still had to be assured that the taxpayer was getting value for money.

Labour is committed to conducting a wide-ranging defence review, which could take up to a year.

Mr Robertson, may also have taken a personal interest in the Sceptre project because of the large amount of work it brings to Scotland.

Brown urged to put squeeze on taxes

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

GORDON BROWN, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, is under strong pressure from business and economists to raise interest rates a little this week to show his earnest in fighting inflation. But most are giving him carte blanche to raise taxes in an emergency Budget in two months as an alternative to sharper increases in interest rates.

The Institute of Directors yesterday joined a chorus expecting the Chancellor to agree a quarter-point rise in base rates at the monthly monetary meeting with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, scheduled for Wednesday.

The IoD admitted that the rise in sterling had hit manufacturing and polarised the economy into fast-growing

service sectors and slow growth from sectors sensitive to the exchange rate. It said inflationary pressures could recur if sterling weakened, but joined the CBI and many of the previous Chancellor's independent economic advisers in calling for a tax squeeze to replace monetary tightening.

Favourites for raising the tax burden are the final abolition of mortgage tax relief, which could help to stem the rise in South East house prices, and restricting income tax allowances of higher-rate taxpayers to the standard rate of tax. This would particularly affect pension contributions.

City economists argue, however, that business is likely to be the biggest short-term sufferer from tax impositions, especially if pension fund tax privileges are attacked. Business already seems resigned to higher taxes, according to a poll of 74 executives of leading businesses from Ernst

& Young, the accountancy group. It found that most expected a higher rate of corporation tax and higher National Insurance contributions.

A high proportion expect their pension funds to be hit by measures to cut or abolish pension fund tax privileges on dividends. Labour would claim that this encourages capital investment. But companies expect to have to make up any shortfall in their funds.

Three quarters believed joining the social chapter, which the Government made its first steps towards yesterday, would harm their businesses. While most employers have issued warnings over the social chapter, these mostly concern what it could contain rather than what it does.

Funds campaign, page 43
Roger Bootle, page 44
Too much, too soon, page 44

Bank briefed on EMU changes

THE Bundesbank has briefed the Bank of England on legislative changes necessary for central bank independence before monetary union (Oliver August writes).

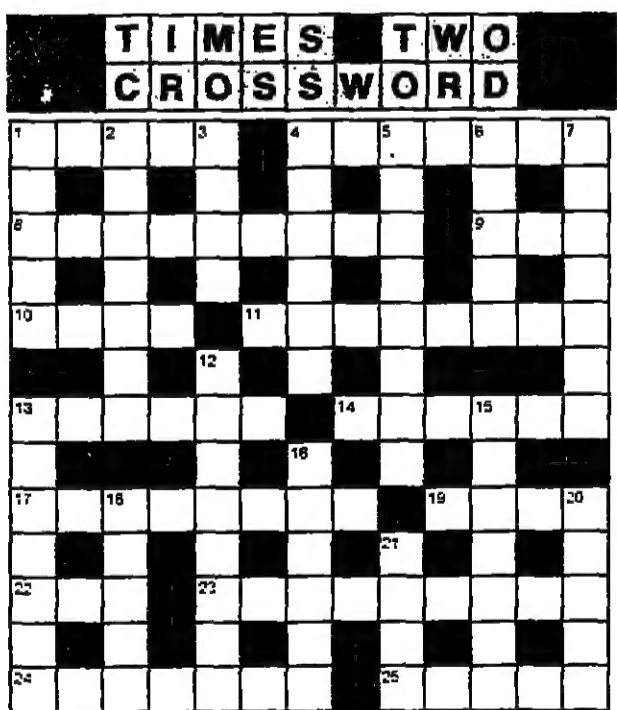
German cabinet ministers will no longer have non-voting access to meetings of the central bank's council under a Bill approved last month. The Bundesbank said the Bank of England had been kept fully

informed of the changes via the European Monetary Institute.

If the Labour Government decides to take Britain into monetary union, then analogous changes must be passed by Parliament. The latest Bank report on the single currency says: "If the UK were to enter EMU, national legislation would clearly be needed."

The new UK Government would have to concede control over interest rates. In Germany, this power is already held by the central bank. But German cabinet ministers will lose their little-known privilege to delay interest rate changes by up to two weeks.

The Bundesbank still has an offsetting obligation to go with the grain of Federal economic policies.



No 1085

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Bird: cower (5) | 1 Misgiving: sick feeling (5) |
| 4 FDR anti-Depression programme (5,4) | 2 Circus gymnast (7) |
| 8 Fanciful, impractical (4-5) | 3 Roof space (4) |
| 9 Globe (3) | 4 Firmly pinned (6) |
| 10,19 Melville whale novel (4-4) | 5 Traveller, walker (8) |
| 11 A figure of speech (8) | 6 Hist. period (5) |
| 12 Rainwater channel (6) | 7 Generous (7) |
| 14 Writing implement (6) | 8 Level-headed (8) |
| 17 Verdict (8) | 13 Share cost of date (2,5) |
| 19 See 10 | 15 Mountaineer (7) |
| 22 Rocky hill (3) | 16 Practical joker (6) |
| 23 Address for reply to ad (3,6) | 18 Gk. island, near Albania (5) |
| 24 Arrogant pride (7) | 20 County of Killarney (5) |
| 25 Belated (5) | 21 Powdery dirt (4) |

- SOLUTION TO NO 1084
- ACROSS: 1 Rigorous 5 Plum 9 Basil 10 Chinwag 11 Frisson 12 Thyme 13 Garrulous 18 Loved 20 Riposte 22 Succumb 23 Point 24 Tili 25 Hellic
- DOWN: 1 Rebuff 2 Gosling 3 Rolls 4 Unconquerable 6 Lowry 7 Magnet 8 Giotto 14 Radium 15 Session 16 Closet 17 Heatic 19 Vocal 21 Pupil
- SOLUTION TO MAY HOLIDAY JUMBO CROSSWORD
- ACROSS: 1 For the black bat, night, has flown 15 Algeria 16 Bath towel 17 Elocution 18 Hunger march 19 Wrongheadedness 20 Recipe 22 Garmoring 23 Democratic 26 Land of Hope and Glory 29 Dilution 32 Technique 33 Extinct 34 Cogitate 36 Tritone 38 Envied 40 Bodice-ripper 43 Dutch courage 44 Ruffie 45 Auditor 47 Forsaken 49 Breathe 51 Iron Cross 54 Incision 55 In no uncertain terms 57 Good for you 59 Advantage 62 Punish 66 National Theatre 67 Irreligious 69 Oxidation 70 Critique 71 Charade 72 Lies damned lies and statistics
- DOWN: 1 Feather 2 Regan 3 Harvest moon 4 Bratna 5 Alberta 6 Kitchener 7 And-war 8 Newfoundland 9 Galago 10 Teetered 11 A cold coming we had of it 12 Founder 13 Oliver Twist 14 Nanosecond 21 Conscript 24 Cheese-book, journalism 25 Write off 26 Latitude 27 Preferring 28 Dither 30 Untried 31 Active list 35 Armistice 37 Ephesus 39 Vagabond 41 Pot-pourri 42 Buxton 46 Second-skin 48 Once or twice 50 Electrified 52 Cat burglar 53 Virgin soil 56 Continue 58 Forward 60 America 61 Garment 63 Hostess 64 Pencil 65 Elicit 68 Onani

Business found wanting on parental leave issue

By MICHAEL HORNELL

ONLY THREE in 100 companies offer an extended parental leave scheme to employees on the birth of a child, according to a survey by the Demos think-tank, which has registered today as National Parenting Day.

The organisation, founded by Martin Jacques, former editor of *Marxist Today*, to stimulate political thinking, also found that 60 per cent of corporate Britain does not believe a scheme will be on the agenda in the next three years.

Demos, which wants to encourage families to spend more time together and bring Britain into line with Europe.

The think-tank, which surveyed 300 companies, defines extended parental schemes as



Jacques: changing focus

Bank Holiday per year over the next 10 years to encourage families to spend more time together and bring Britain into line with Europe.

paid leave of more than 26 weeks for women and two weeks for men. There was a positive response from six out of 104 public-sector respondents but only four out of 200 in the private sector.

The reasons given for not offering a scheme were that it would be too expensive, that staff absence would cause too much disruption, with extra workloads for those covering for an absentee, and that there was insufficient demand.

Of the 40 per cent of organisations that offer limited paternity leave, two fifths permit five days, while one fifth allow one or two. Demos said that the new Government's commitment to the social chapter should mean that unpaid parental leave of up to three months will come on line automatically.

Martyn goes to Trinity

JOHN MARTYN, the City finance director who gave up his £220,000-a-year job to spend more time on charity work, has been headhunted by an Oxford college after an article in *The Times* (Adam Jones writes).

Michael Beloff, QC, the president of Trinity College, approached Mr Martyn to become estates bursar after reading about his resignation from Dalgety, the food group, last October.

Mr Martyn will combine the part-time post with volunteer work at Oxford's Gatehouse centre for the homeless as well as a non-executive directorship of Littlewoods.

Richer colleges, page 8
Leading article, page 21
Keeper of estate, page 42

Dow boom fuels sale hopes at Christie's and Sotheby's

Spring in step of US art rivals

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE annual duel between Christie's and Sotheby's begins in New York today with the start of the spring art auction season expected to see a return to something like the excesses of the late 1990s thanks to the booming stock market.

The rival auction houses expect to sell art worth more than estimated \$550 million in the next two weeks. Both Sotheby's and Christie's believe international buyers have made so much money on the stock market over the last two years that they have more cash to spend than at any time in the last decade.

several large sellers are rushing to offload pictures for fear of a stock market crash later this year, undermining the current high prices for art. Many believe the art market is hitting its peak in step with the Dow Jones industrial average and they are betting that the stock market will fall in the next few months in the face of rising interest rates and faltering corporate profits.

The biggest single sale is the John Loeb Collection, from the estate of the Wall Street financier who died last year, which Christie's expects to go for at least \$80 million. The star attraction is Cezanne's *Cezanne seated on a yellow chair*, which should sell for about \$25 million. Another Cezanne is expected to

go for \$10 million, and *Manet with his Pallet*, by Manet, may fetch \$15 million. Christie's is also selling works from the Koefer Collection, including Picasso's *Torso of a Young Girl with a Pitcher*, worth about \$7 million. The four-day Impressionist and modern art sale is expected to raise at least \$200 million.

Other major sellers this season are the estate of Pamela Harriman, the former US Ambassador in Paris, and the corporate collection of CBS, the US television network.

Although Sotheby's is lagging behind its rival in big sales this year, it is offering several major paintings, including a Modigliani worth about \$10 million and a Degas worth about \$7 million.

YOU'RE AMAZING.
FROM JUST £15
A MONTH WE'LL
HELP YOU
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